TL: JIN
EDITOR: PINPIN

JUST ONE SHOULD DO IT.

I WANNA TAKE A PICTURE OF THEO'S SLEEPING FACE WHILE HIS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS NAP.

SNOOZE

DON'T BREAK IT.

BOSS, I'M BORROWING YOUR CAMERA.

LIFTS

...COME TO THINK OF IT, EARLIER-

-HUH?

WHEN HE GETS TO TALKING, HE SEEMS LIKE A 5 YEAR OLD.

BUT MAN, HE REALLY IS A CATCH WHEN HE'S NOT TALKING...

MUUAH... NNG...

I THINK ANYONE AMISH WOULD HATE IT IF A CAMERA WAS POINTED IN THEIR DIRECTION...

AND I MEAN, REALLY,

THEO, YOU'VE NEVER HAD YOUR PICTURE TAKEN?

YEAH, IT GUESS JUST WASN'T FATED TO BE.

.....

...I DIDN'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD HATE...

OF COURSE NOT~! YOU DIDN'T TAKE ONE WHILE I WAS SLEEPING?

OH, A CAMERA!!

GOOD MORNING, OZ!

THERE'S NO WAY I'D HATE IT~

...UM, HEY, THEODORE...

W... WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK JUST ONE PICTURE?

もご

もご

FLASH

END

ラムスプリンガの情景

The scene of Lam Springa

吾妻香夜

CHOCOLAT COMICS

第1話
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THE HEARTFELT EXPRESSIONS OF BELOVED FAMILY MEMBERS' FACES.

HEARING A FRIEND'S WRENCHING SOBS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE FIELDS PLOWED EVERY DAY WITH THE HORSES HELP

THE HOMES THAT WERE WARM AND LOVING,

FAR AWAY

BECOMING SEPARATED.

THE MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

THE WONDERFUL PLACE OF MY BIRTH,

THESE FINAL MOMENTS, THESE FINAL MEMORIES OF THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH.

THIS IS MY——!!

IT'S ALL DISAPPEARING.

CHAPTER 1

1980'S, AMERICA

HEY, THAT WAITER BOY OVER THERE,

.....

HEY, TED!

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

HEY

PLEASE? I'LL GIVE YOU A HUGE TIP!

CHATTER

CHATTER

YOU SAID HE USED TO BE A DANCER?

I WANT HIM TO DANCE FOR ME

THAT'S THE REASON I CAME, IT'S TO CHECK UP ON HER.

I HEARD YOUR MOTHER ISN'T DOING TOO WELL, IS EVERY-THING OKAY?

IT'S NOTHING, JUST A CUS-TOMER WHO'S BEING... WELL ANYWAY, WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK INTO TOWN?

SHUT UP.

IT'S ALMOST BEEN A YEAR, BUT NOTHING EVER CHANGES AROUND HERE, HUH.

WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE MAKING A WEIRDER FACE THAN NORMAL.

WELL IF IT ISN'T NEIL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

THUD

WO——W.!!

I'M HEADING BACK TO NEW YORK TOMOR-ROW.

I'LL BE BACK HERE NEXT YEAR, SO I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN TO AMUSE ME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU IN.

FOR YOU TO HAVE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT MY MOTHER..

IT REALLY IS A SMALL TOWN, ISN'T IT?

... BUT

THE GUY WHO WAS DANCING JUST NOW...

IS HE A PART-TIMER HERE?

AHH, HIM. ACTUALLY, IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE.

YEAH, SEE THAT,

THAT ONE OVER THERE IS BRAT OF THE OWNER OF THAT DINER TWO BLOCKS AWAY.

NEXT TO HIM IS JOHN'S NIECE, YOU KNOW, FROM THE REPAIR SHOP.

AND THAT KID?

'CUZ EVERYBODY HAS UP AND LEFT FOR NEW YORK.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESSES.

HMM?

SIGH

THE OPPOSITE?

PERFECT TIMING. OI, OZ!

OSWALD! COME OVER HERE FOR A BIT.

OH HO?

WHAT'S UP, BOSS.

THERE'S A WEIRDO OVER THERE IN THAT CORNER. DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

OH, YOU JUST CAME TO THIS TOWN RECENTLY, DIDN'T YOU?

... WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HE'S AMISH, AIN'T HE?

YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM! IT'S NOT SO UNCOMMON AROUND THESE PARTS.

THE AMISH ARE A RELIGIOUS GROUP, A BRANCH OF CHRISTIANITY.

HE CAME OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS AND ISN'T GONNA TALK TO ANYONE?

THEY DON'T USE TELEPHONES OR BICYCLES AND LIVE LIFE AS IF THEY'VE JUST IMMIGRATED.

HUH...

...

"AMISH"?

FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THEY SURE ARE DIFFERENT, BUT... WELL, THEY'RE A HARMLESS LOT.

SWEET, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

OZ, IF YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND CHASE HIM OUT FOR ME, I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK ON NEXT MONTH'S RENT.

THAT ASIDE,

THAT GUY HAS BEEN STANDING FACING THE WALL FOR TWO HOURS ALREADY. IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS.

HE'S AIMING TO GO TO NEW YORK TO BE A PROFESSIONAL DANCER, BUT I HEARD HE HAD A BIT OF A SETBACK.

SEEMS LIKE HE'S BEEN IN A NUMBER OF OFF-BROADWAY PRODUCTIONS, BUT

RIGHT NOW, HE'S LIVING IN THE ROOM ABOVE THIS PLACE WHILE HE WORKS PART-TIME.

HE ALSO DOES SOME SLEAZY STUFF ON THE SIDE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

THE NEXT TIME YOU DO I'LL BE THE ONE CHASING *YOU* OUT! OF YOUR APARTMENT!

YOU SAY THAT BUT I'M WARNING YOU NOW, DON'T START A FIGHT LIKE THE ONE YOU DID YESTERDAY!

YEAH YEAH, I HEAR YOU.

...BUT

HE HAS AN ATTRACTIVE FACE, AND A GOOD BODY.

IT MAKES SENSE.

HIM BEING HERE HELPS ME OUT, TOO.

HE'S GOT QUITE A FEW REGULAR CUSTOMERS WHO ARE ATTACHED.

IT IS SHAME ISN'T IT.

CUTE

I CAN'T USE THAT

WHA!?

YOU'RE WEIRDING OUT THE OWNER

IF YOU ARE JUST LOITERING, SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GO HOME?

HEY YOU.

GONNA ORDER SOMETHING?

DON'T KNOW HOW TO WHAT?

I, I'M SO SORRY THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL!

UM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO...

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU COULD BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE BUT... THAT'S NOT IT, HUH.

THAT'S QUITE THE ACCENT...

BECAUSE...

WOAH

I'M... UH,

IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN THIS KIND OF PLACE, AND... UM...

AH, IT'S

...WELL UM... Y-YOU...

...OH.

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, COULD YOU PLEASE...

TEACH ME...

AH, YES.

I'M A CUSTOMER.

YOU'RE *THAT* KIND OF CUSTO-MER.

WE'RE OBVIOUSLY GOING TO MY ROOM.

SLAM

HEY, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

HAA? "WHERE?"...

DON'T MESS UP THE ROOM.

WHAT?, SO HE WAS ONE OF YOURS.

HEY BOSS, LET ME TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF.

YEAH

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

EVEN THOUGH WE JUST MET, I'M VERY HAPPY YOU INVITED

SO? WHO INTRODUCED YOU?

WHOA!!

THIS IS YOUR ROOM?!

?

NOPE!

IF THAT SLEAZEBAG TOLD YOU THERE WAS EVEN ONE CENT DISCOUNT, I'M GOING TO GET PISSED OFF.

GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE

GEEZ.OF ALL PEOPLE, HE CHOSE A KID LIKE YOU...

GRUMBLE

HERE, GET ON THE BED.

SURE, THANKS!

WELL, I CAN GUESS. IT WAS EDDY, WASN'T IT.

HE DIDN'T TELL YOU THERE WAS A REFERRAL DISCOUNT, RIGHT?

RUSTLE

.....

...STILL,

HEY

YOU'RE... AMISH, OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

YEAH!

THIS KIND OF GUY CAME TO BUY A MAN... GUESS YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM, HUH.

HE'S GOT A GOOD BUILD BUT INSIDE HE SEEMS LIKE A DUMB KID.

YAWN

SERIOUSLY, A TEENAGER? NO, MAYBE HE'S ABOUT 20?

WELL, I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT ANYWAY, I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING TROUBLESOME, SO IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE ISSUES, IF WE COULD AVOID TALKING ABOUT [illegible]ONAL-

SO HEY, I JUST STARTED RUMSPRINGA.

HMMM...

AND DANNY'S ABOUT TO GET MARRIED TO MY COUSIN, OH BUT, HER NAME'S CHLOE, SHE'S KINDA LIKE MY OLDER SISTER, AND...

STOP!!!

BUT THEN AGAIN I'M PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY ONE IN MY VILLAGE...DANNY WAS... AH, DANNY IS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

I'VE NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE MY VILLAGE UP 'TILL NOW, Y'KNOW?

WHY'D YOU UNDRESS?

? RAM...? WHAT?

OH!, IS THAT SO! I GET IT!

YES, GOOD BOY.

GRIP

STOP RIGHT THERE! QUIT BABBLING ON ABOUT YOUR LIFE

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ABOUT ANY-THING THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR BODY!

I WAS WONDE-RING WHAT I SHOULD DO, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

I'VE NEVER POPPED ANYONE'S CHERRY BEFORE.

OHH, YOU CAN EAT FRUIT AT THIS STORE TOO?

... WHAT'S WITH THE LAME JOKE.

OH, BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY ON ME, SO I DON'T THINK I COULD GET VERY MANY...

? AH, IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO PAYMENT, THEN ONE HOUR IS $35. CHEAP, RIGHT?

WHAT?!

...?

BUT YOU ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY USED TO IT, AREN'T YOU?

...YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING

SLIDE

YOU'RE NOT TENSE AT ALL.

HAHAHA, THAT TICKLES!

CRUSH

I JUST CAME INTO THE STORE THINKING MAYBE I'D TRY DRINKING ALCOHOL, BUT

NHG

OI, WHEN YOU KISS, YOU SHOULD SHUT P AND CLOSE OUR EYES...

BUT I

I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH ON ME.

WE'RE THIS FAR AND YOU ARE GETTING COLD FEET? YOU CAN JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.

I HAVE ANOTHER CUSTOMER AFTER THIS, SO SORRY BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY THIS ALONG.

?

CUSTO-MERS...

DON'T TELL ME WE GOT THIS FAR JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING WITH THE FLOW AND YOU ARE NOT ACTUALLY ONE OF MY

YOU JUST CAME HERE TO TRY AL-COHOL?

...HEY, YOU

WHAT!

KYA

!!!

THIS WASN'T MY INTENTION... AT ALL...

UM...

SORRY... I DIDN'T REALIZE, AND...

OZ! BRING THAT GUY DOWNSTAIRS!

BANG BANG BANG BANG

NO WAY

!!

.....

...BUGGY ...?

TO PICK HIM UP!

A BUGGY IS HERE

YOU'RE LATE, THEO! WE PLANNED TO MEET AN HOUR AGO.

THANKS FOR COMING TO GET ME.

A-H! DANNY!

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

I DEFINITELY SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH YOU...

BUT DANNY, YOU'RE ALREADY BAPTIZED SO YOU CAN'T GO INTO BARS. NEITHER CAN CHLOE.

WELL YEAH BUT, YOU WORRY ME.

GERMAN?

IT'S SERIOUSLY A HORSE...

WHAT, YOU ALREADY MADE A FRIEND?

IT WAS COMPLETELY FINE!

I HAD THIS PERSON WITH ME.

HELLO,

IT LOOKS LIKE HE CAUSED YOU SOME TROUBLE, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

THEO IS ESPECIALLY NAIVE WHEN IT COMES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

OH, IT WASN'T...

THEN, IF YOU'RE SATISFIED, THEO, LET'S GO HOME.

COME ON, GET IN.

AH, HOLD ON A MINUTE DANNY.

...OSWALD CARTER.

I'M THEODORE!

THEODORE SULLIVAN!

NO NO, I JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS, IT WAS MY FAULT.

PANIC

PANIC

PANIC

SORRY ABOUT TODAY.

WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT I WANTED YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO ORDER, AND...

OSWALD!

AH

YEAH, I'M SURE!

GOING INTO TOWN LIKE THIS, ENTERING A SHOP LIKE THAT... IT WAS ALL MY FIRST TIME!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT? IN THE END, YOU DIDN'T EVEN DRINK ANY ALCOHOL.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A SHORT TIME, I HAD FUN TODAY.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU!

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, I'M GLAD I GOT TO MEET OZ.

I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN!

RATTLE

SEE YOU LATER!

INHABITING NORTH AMERICA'S WEST COAST, IN ALASKA, CANADA, AMERICA

AS WELL AS THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF MEXICO.

CREAK

AH

GAH

AH

CREAK

IS FOUND TO BE

THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL GO DOWN TO THE OCEAN

Z...

CREAK

IT SPENDS FUNDAMENTALLY IT'S WHOLE LIFE IN FRESH WATER AS A RIVER FISH, BUT

CREAK

HA!

COUGH

HEY

HA!

CREAK

DON'T YANK MY HAIR

IT HURTS! YOU SUCK AT THIS.

WHAT WAS THAT?!

SLAM

SLAM

CREAK

UGH

AH

HA

UGH

TRY GASPING A LITTLE MORE CUTELY, THIS IS YOUR JOB AIN'T IT?

JESUS, YOU SOUND LIKE A DYING CHICKEN, CUT THAT OUT.

SHUT UP, I'M A PAYING CUSTOMER, I'LL DO WHAT I WANT

HA!

BUT WHEN I'M DEALING WITH SCUM, THERE'S NO POINT IN ACTING, IS THERE?

THAT'S WHAT I DO FOR ALL OF MY CUSTOMERS EXCEPT YOU.

YOU'RE JUST A WASHED UP DANCER, DON'T GET COCKY.

BASH

GAH!

CREAK

HA

HA

HEY, TIGHTEN UP YOUR ASS, I'M ALMOST THERE.

CREAK

NOTHING REALLY... I WAS JUST TALKING TO ONE OF THE CUSTOMERS IN THE BAR TODAY.

HUH? WHY ALL THE SUDDEN.

EVER HEARD OF"RUMSPRINGA"?

AH, I HEARD ABOUT THAT. IT'S ABOUT THAT GUY, RIGHT?

IT'S A PERIOD OF TIME WHERE AMISH KIDS CAN RUN AROUND UNINHIBITED.

...HEY, EDDY.

CLICK

WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE THE 20 DOLLARS HERE.

WHAT?!

SERIOUSLY, THANK GOD I WASN'T BORN THERE.

ONLY DURING THAT TIME ARE THEY ALLOWED TO LIVE LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, DO ALL THE THINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY FORBIDDEN. ALCOHOL, EVEN DRUGS ARE OKAY, OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I'VE HEARD.

SMUSH

SO THAT'S WHY HE WAS HERE.

HUH...

.....

BANG

HEY, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH AT-

YOU PIECE OF SHIT

THUD

PILLOW

「IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET ANYONE LIKE YOU!」

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH.

SO EMBARRASSING...

AH

「I'M GLAD I GOT TO MEET OZ.」

HA

CLICK

FLICK

POMF

MAN, WHAT A DAY.

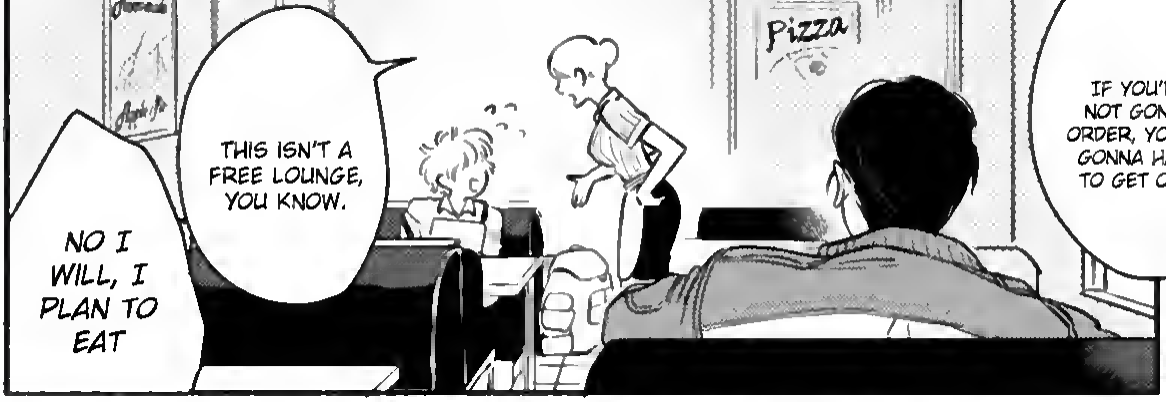
WHAT A WEIRD GUY.

「I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN!」

A TIME WHEN YOU REJOICE IN YOUR OWN FREEDOM, HUH...

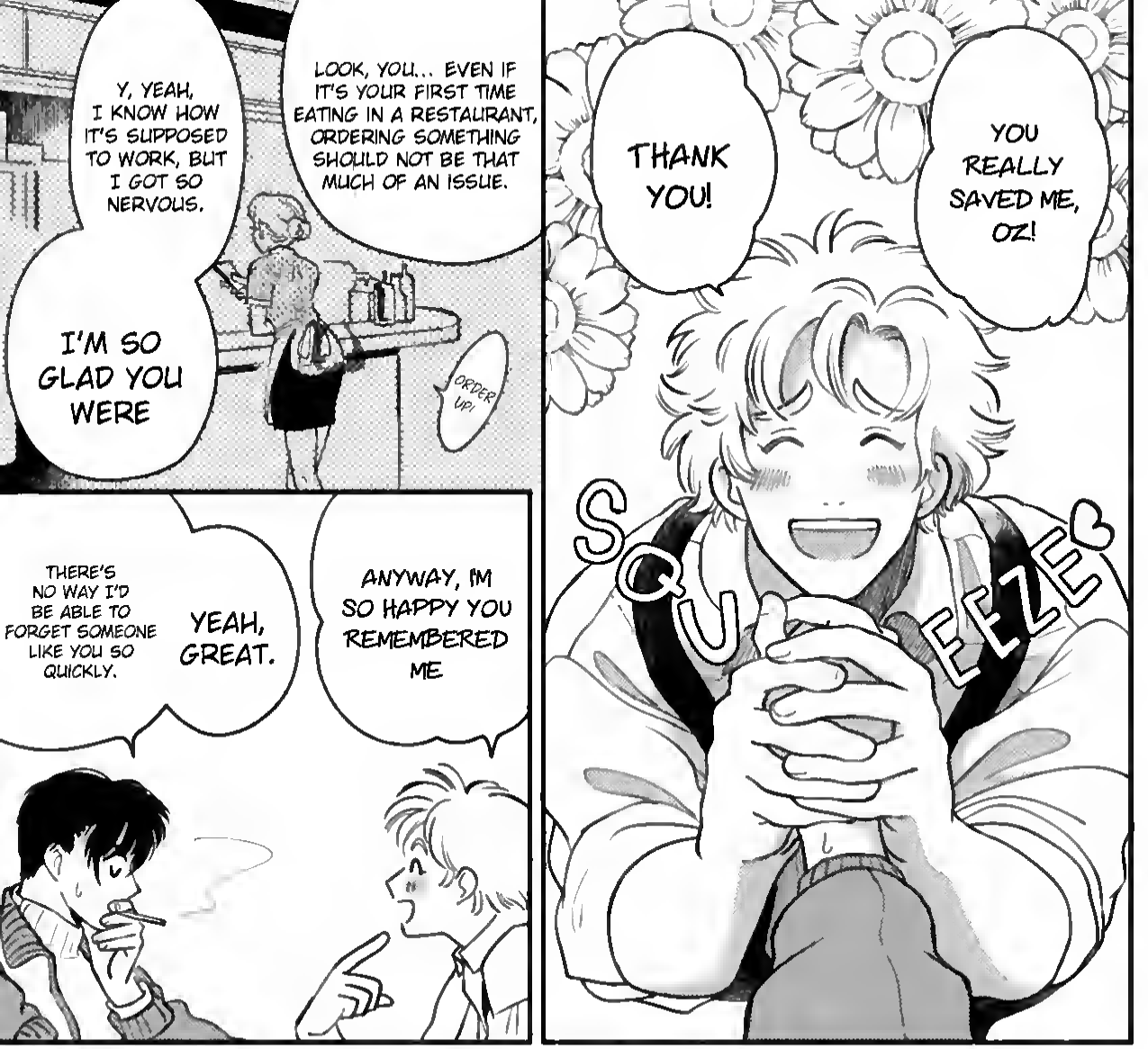

CHAPTER 2
CLINK
CLINK
UGH, IT'S COLD...
CHEESE TOAST AND A FRIED EGG.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR EGG?
SUNNY SIDE UP.
ALSO, CAN I GET A COFFEE?
COMING RIGHT UP.
DINER

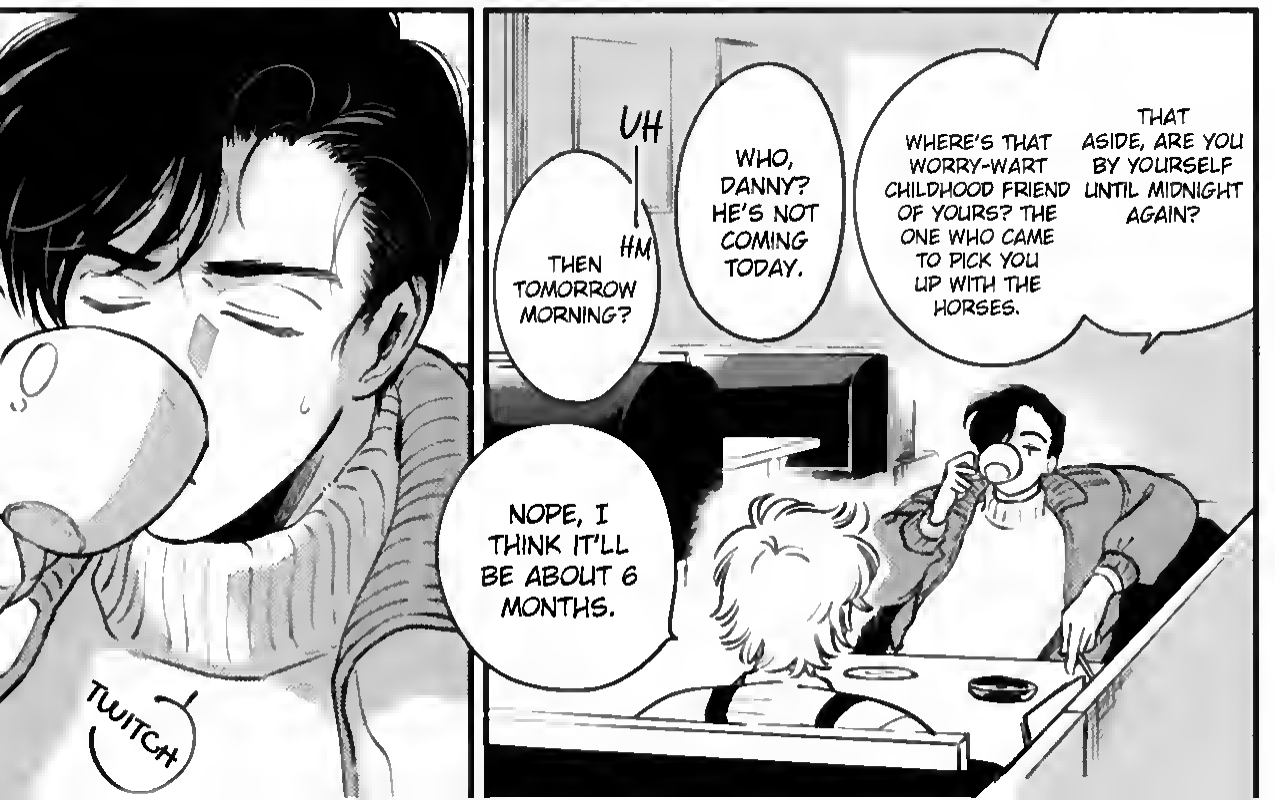

HEY, YOU OVER THERE!
YOU'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR LONG ENOUGH.
HOW LONG'RE YA JUST GONNA SIT THERE FOR?
Freshly Brewed
COFFEE

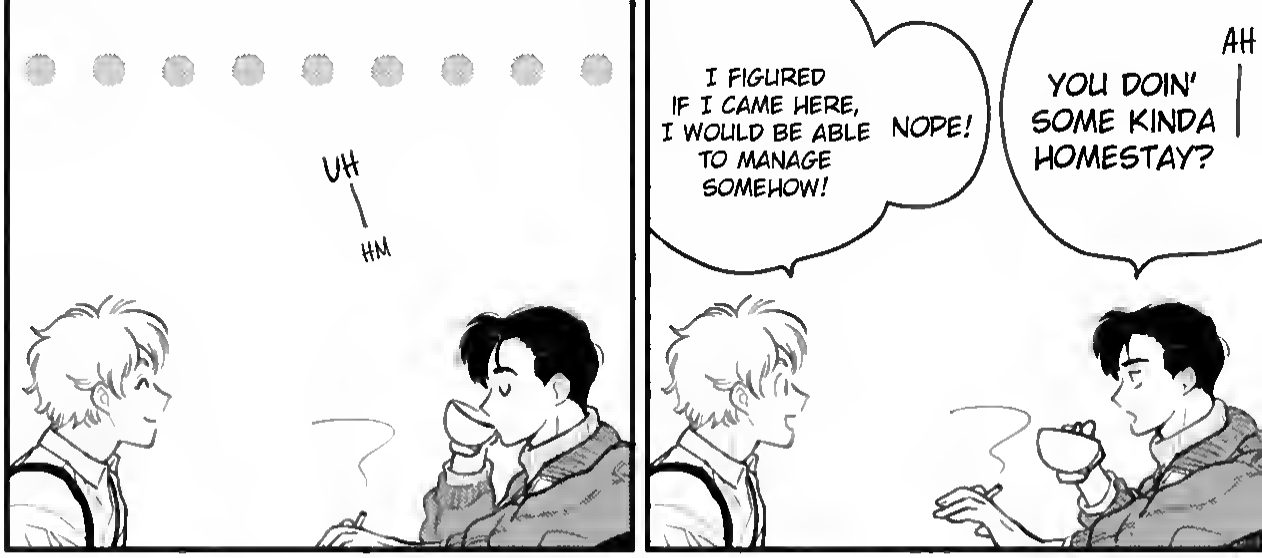

Pizza
IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA ORDER, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET OUT.
THIS ISN'T A FREE LOUNGE, YOU KNOW.
NO I WILL, I PLAN TO EAT

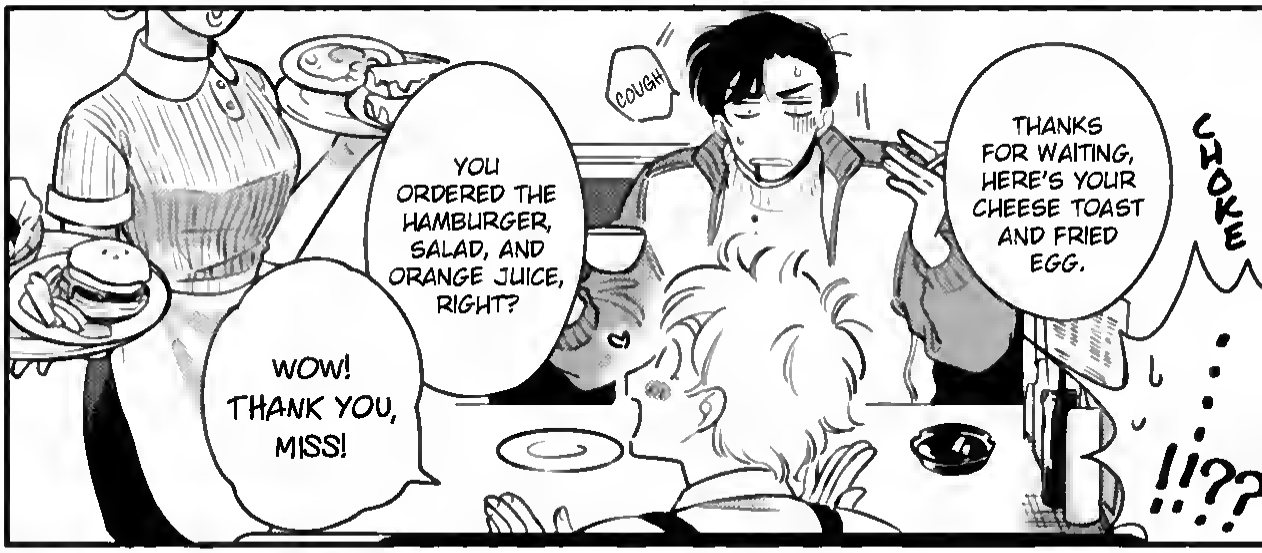

Pie
AH!
I'M VERY SORRY...
MUMBLING MUMBLING
MENU
WHICH ONE IS "THIS"!
TH-THEN, THIS...


COFFEE
OKAY, HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR STEAK?
H-HOW DO I WANT MY?!
N-NEVER MIND, THE HAMBURGER,
HA
UM, UH, THIS STEAK! AND, UH,
YOU HAVE TO SPEAK MORE CLEARLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?


Y, YEAH, I KNOW HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK, BUT I GOT SO NERVOUS.
LOOK, YOU... EVEN IF IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME EATING IN A RESTAURANT, ORDERING SOMETHING SHOULD NOT BE THAT MUCH OF AN ISSUE.
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE
ORDER UP!
THANK YOU!
YOU REALLY SAVED ME, OZ!
SQUEEZE
THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ABLE TO FORGET SOMEONE LIKE YOU SO QUICKLY.
YEAH, GREAT.
ANYWAY, I'M SO HAPPY YOU REMEMBERED ME


TWITCH
NOPE, I THINK IT'LL BE ABOUT 6 MONTHS.
UH
HM
THEN TOMORROW MORNING?
WHO, DANNY? HE'S NOT COMING TODAY.
WHERE'S THAT WORRY-WART CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF YOURS? THE ONE WHO CAME TO PICK YOU UP WITH THE HORSES.
THAT ASIDE, ARE YOU BY YOURSELF UNTIL MIDNIGHT AGAIN?

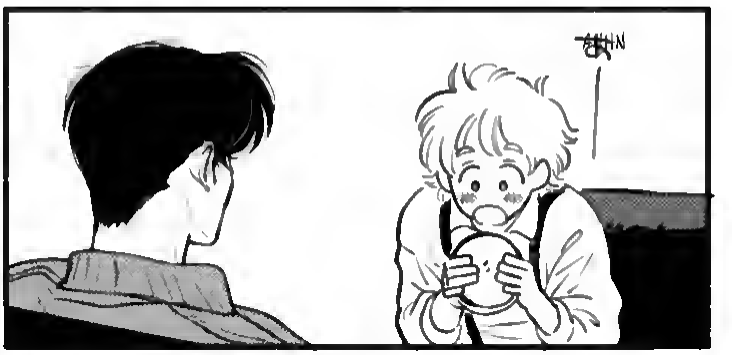

UH
HM
I FIGURED IF I CAME HERE, I WOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE SOMEHOW!
NOPE!
AH
YOU DOIN' SOME KINDA HOMESTAY?

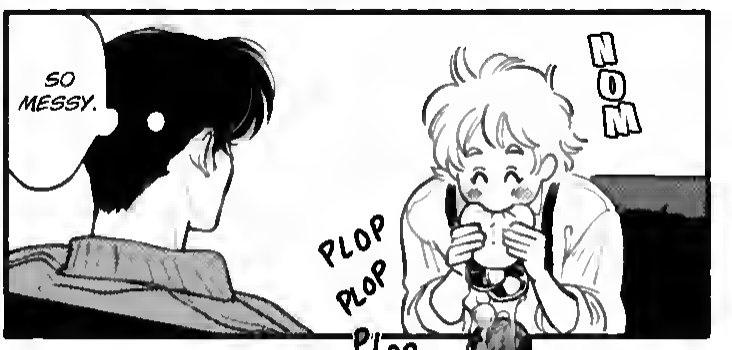

COUGH
YOU ORDERED THE HAMBURGER, SALAD, AND ORANGE JUICE, RIGHT?
WOW! THANK YOU, MISS!
THANKS FOR WAITING, HERE'S YOUR CHEESE TOAST AND FRIED EGG.
CHOKE
!!??


MUNCH
SO, IN OTHER WORDS...
THIS TIME 'ROUND, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO OUT AND SURVIVE IN THIS TOWN ON YOUR OWN SOMEHOW?
SOUNDS LIKE A SICK JOKE TO ME...
FATHER IN HEAVEN,

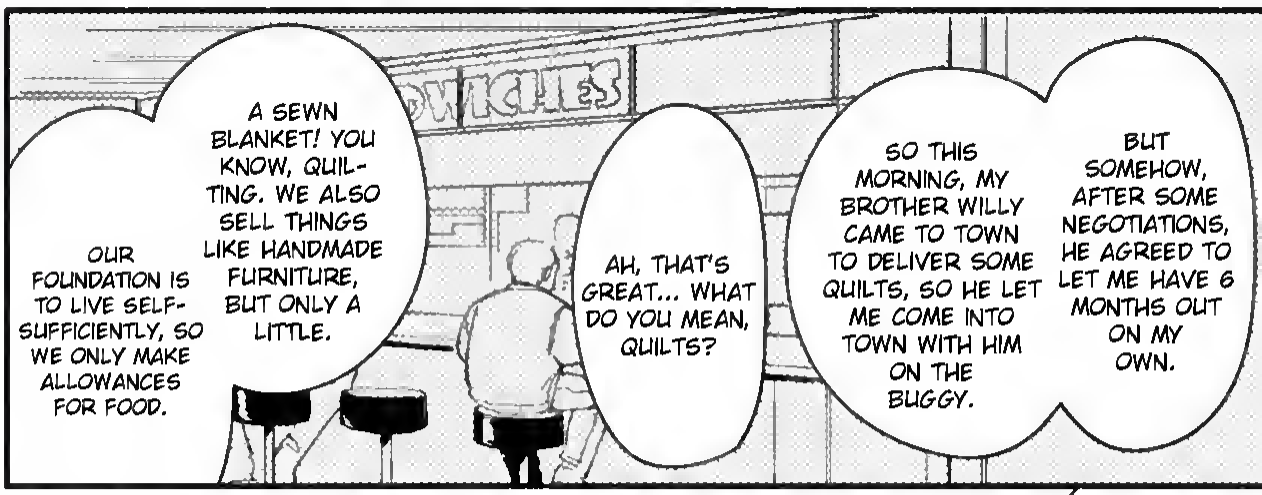

WE GIVE THANKS TO THE FOOD YOU HAVE BLESSEDLY PREPARED
AS PROVISIONS TO SUSTAIN OUR BODY AND SOUL.
AMEN


HAH (AH) OS, DU YOU UAN' ANY...? (OZ, DO YOU WANT ANY...?)
I'M GOOD... IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE EVERY-THING FOR YOURSELF.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS JUST A WEIRD RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, OR JUST YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME, BUT THAT (SUPER OVERPROTECTIVE) DANNY GUY ALLOWED IT, HUH.
YAY~

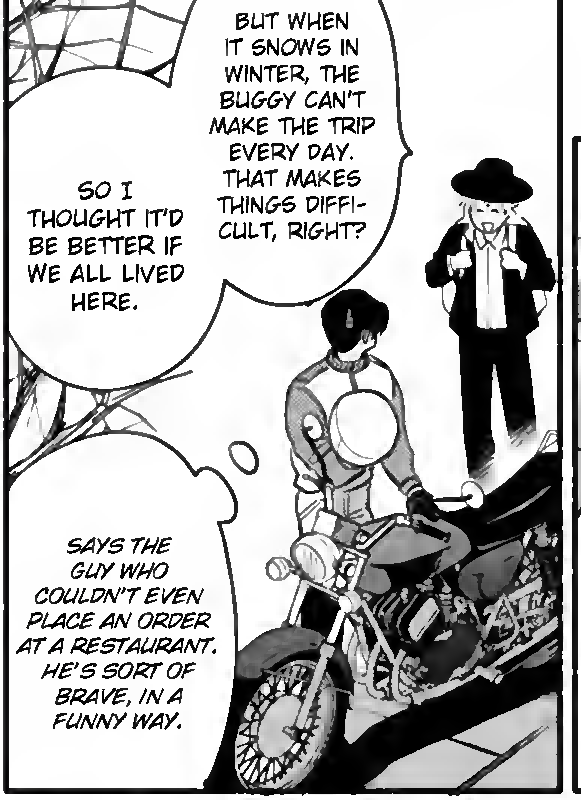



SO MESSY.
NOM
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP


WOW. I UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL.
WIPE IT OFF
THIS IS HARD TO EAT
HE SAID, "IF ONLY YOUR BODY WAS LIKE A 1 YEAR OLD'S TOO, I WOULDN'T BE SO WORRIED..." ISN'T THAT MEAN?
DANNY PUSHED IT OFF UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.


OUR FOUNDATION IS TO LIVE SELF-SUFFICIENTLY, SO WE ONLY MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR FOOD.
A SEWN BLANKET! YOU KNOW, QUILTING. WE ALSO SELL THINGS LIKE HANDMADE FURNITURE, BUT ONLY A LITTLE.
AH, THAT'S GREAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, QUILTS?
SO THIS MORNING, MY BROTHER WILLY CAME TO TOWN TO DELIVER SOME QUILTS, SO HE LET ME COME INTO TOWN WITH HIM ON THE BUGGY.
BUT SOMEHOW, AFTER SOME NEGOTIATIONS, HE AGREED TO LET ME HAVE 6 MONTHS OUT ON MY OWN.

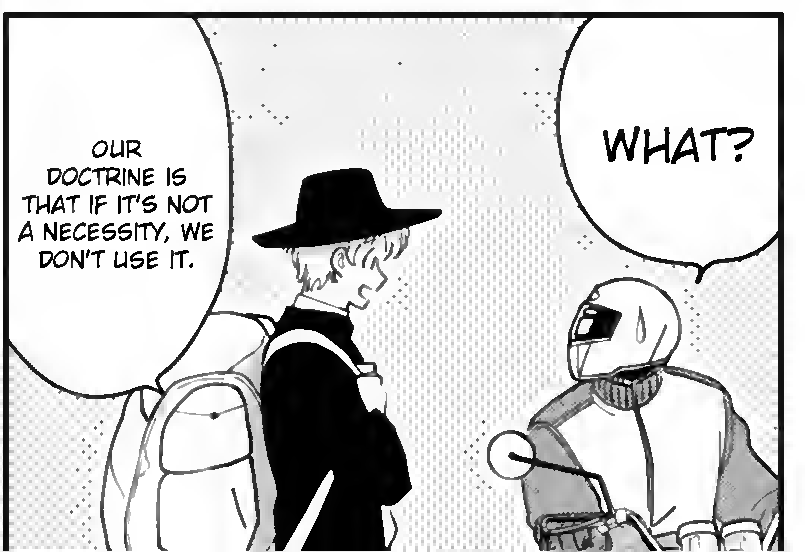

EVERYBODY HAS TO WORK IN ORDER TO LIVE.
The New York Times
REAGAN TAKES OATH
40TH PRESIDENT:
PROMISES A 'ERA OF
NATIONAL RENEWAL'
WELL, YEAH...
NOWADAYS, IF YOU DON'T HAVE AT LEAST A LITTLE MONEY, YOU CAN'T LIVE.


BUT WHEN IT SNOWS IN WINTER, THE BUGGY CAN'T MAKE THE TRIP EVERY DAY. THAT MAKES THINGS DIFFICULT, RIGHT?
SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER IF WE ALL LIVED HERE.
SAYS THE GUY WHO COULDN'T EVEN PLACE AN ORDER AT A RESTAURANT. HE'S SORT OF BRAVE, IN A FUNNY WAY.


IS YOUR HOUSE FAR FROM HERE?
MM, IT'S ABOUT 3 HOURS BY HORSE? THIS PLACE IS THE CLOSEST MAJOR CITY.
WHENEVER ANYONE HAS SOMETHING THEY NEED, WE COME HERE TO BUY IT.


DID YOU KNOW? AMISH DON'T HAVE PHONES OR CARS, THEY INSTEAD LIVE THEIR LIVES NO DIFFERENTLY BACK WHEN THEIR ANCESTORS FIRST IMMIGRATED
AHH.. COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GUY MENTIONED SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
THIS GUY
NO NO, NOWADAYS THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ARE COMPLETELY NECESSARY, AREN'T THEY?
WE'RE TOTALLY FINE BESIDES, WE HAVE RUMSPRINGA.

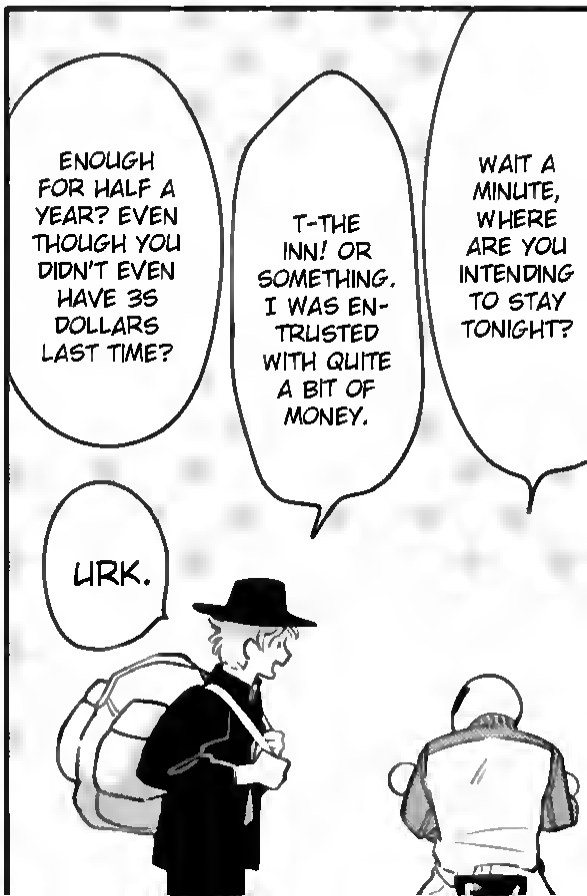

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A STURDY LOOKING GUY, WHEN YOU HAPHAZARDLY SET OFF INTO THE WORLD LIKE THIS, DANNY'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO WORRY.
WELL, WHATEVER, JUST REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR FAMILY A CALL
THAT'S NO GOOD. WE DON'T USE TELEPHONES EITHER.


WHAT?
OUR DOCTRINE IS THAT IF IT'S NOT A NECESSITY, WE DON'T USE IT.

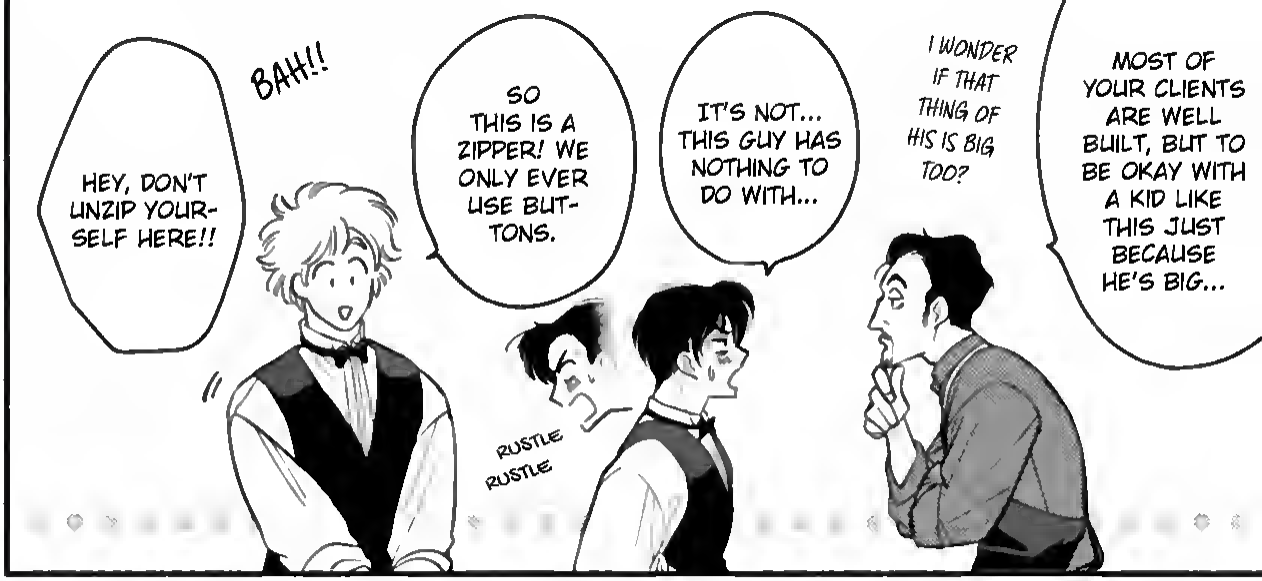

I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT... THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
DURING THIS TIME, I WANT TO SOMEHOW BE ABLE TO MANAGE ON MY OWN


HEY.
YOU
IF WE'RE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN, THAT WOULD MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY. ANYWAY, GOOD-BYE...!
THANKS AGAIN FOR TODAY, OZ. I'LL DO MY BEST.
.....


I HAVE IT! A SPECIAL SKILL!
MM... OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT YOURSELF TO BE ABLE TO DO? WHEN YOU'RE COMPLETELY LACKING IN COMMON SENSE.
EVEN IF YOU INTEND TO WORK,
OH? WHAT IS IT?


ENOUGH FOR HALF A YEAR? EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE 3S DOLLARS LAST TIME?
T-THE INN! OR SOMETHING. I WAS ENTRUSTED WITH QUITE A BIT OF MONEY.
WAIT A MINUTE, WHERE ARE YOU INTENDING TO STAY TONIGHT?
URK.


...IN THIS TOWN, PROBABLY NOT.
SO I WOULD GET HIRED ANYWHERE, RIGHT?!
I'M THE BEST IN MY VILLAGE AT CHANGING HORSESHOES!
...YEAH
OZ?
I CAN GENERALLY GUESS THE SITUATION, BUT... YOU KNOW PICKING UP A DOG OR A CAT OFF THE STREETS IS DIFFERENT FROM PICKING UP AN AMISH KID, RIGHT?
PLUS NO DOG YOU BROUGHT IN COULD BE THIS DUMB EITHER, AT LEAST I
YEAH... SORRY, I ALSO HAVE NO IDEA IF HE'LL BE USEFUL OR NOT.
OZ, LOOK LOOK! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IVE EVER WORN THIS KIND OF NECKTIE, IT'S SO CUTE! DOES IT LOOK OKAY ON ME, YOU THINK?
AH, YEAH, LOOKS GOOD, LOOKS GREAT OKAY, YOU NEED TO SHUT UP FOR A BIT, IDIOT.
HA
JESUS, FINE ALREADY! IT'S THE SAME TO ME IF THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF YOU.
BUT OZ, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL...

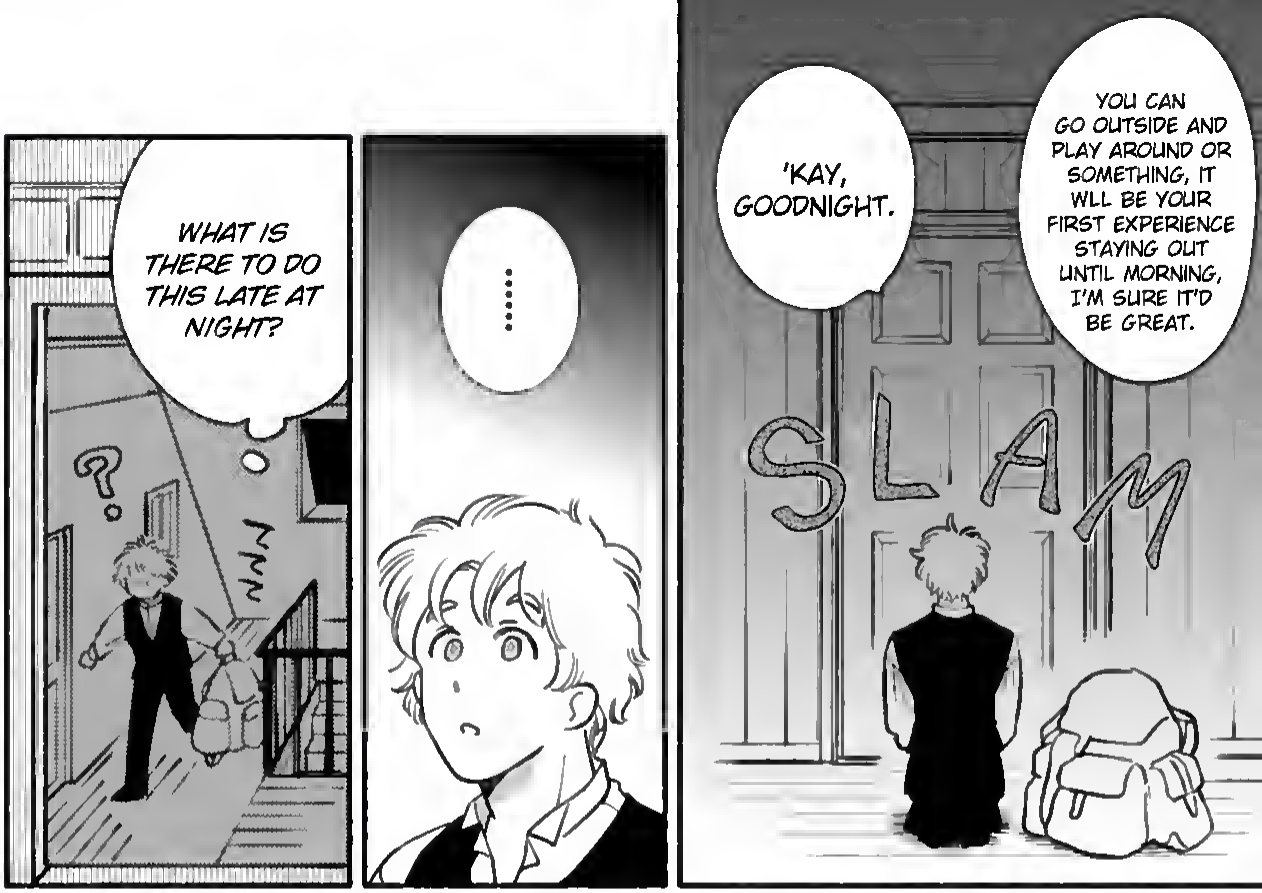

HEY, DON'T UNZIP YOURSELF HERE!!
BAH!!
SO THIS IS A ZIPPER! WE ONLY EVER USE BUTTONS.
IT'S NOT... THIS GUY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
I WONDER IF THAT THING OF HIS IS BIG TOO?
MOST OF YOUR CLIENTS ARE WELL BUILT, BUT TO BE OKAY WITH A KID LIKE THIS JUST BECAUSE HE'S BIG...


THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN ARE ALL GOOD PEOPLE, HUH?
ON TOP OF LETTING ME WORK HERE, TED'S ALSO LETTING ME BORROW THIS ROOM.
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ABLE TO SAY THAT WHEN HE MADE YOU WORKED THAT HARD WHILE ONLY PAYING YOU $1.50 AN HOUR.
LIKE I SAID, YOURS IS THE ROOM NEXT DOOR!
IS THAT LOW?
HE'S RIPPING YOU OFF. DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND YOU'RE BEING PAID HALF OF THE MINIMUM WAGE?
OH, REALLY? BUT, YOU KNOW, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER!


FIRST DAY, ONLY WASHING DISHES
JEEZ...

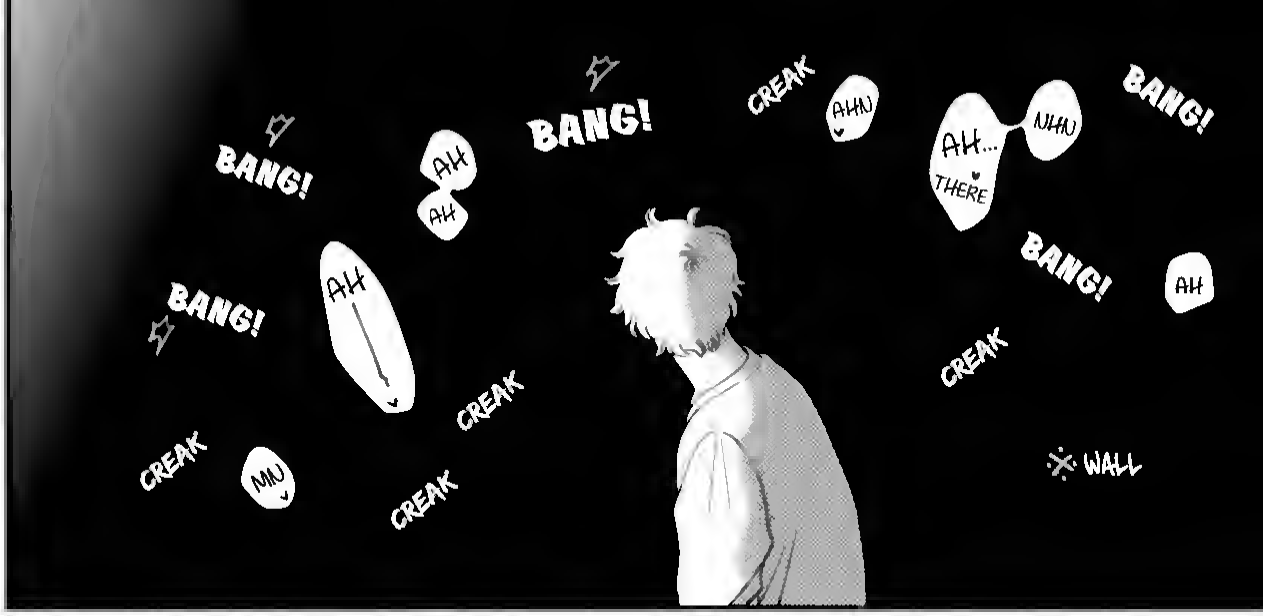

"OZ, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU"
WE HAVEN'T EVEN OPENED THE SHOP BUT I'M ALREADY EXHAUSTED


THANK YOU, GOD. I'M REALLY THANKFUL!
AHH, I REALLY AM BLESSED!
I'M WORKING AND LIVING IN THE SAME PLACE WITH THE FRIEND I'VE WANTING TO SEE AFTER ALL!
I'D BE FINE EVEN WORKING FOR FREE.
WHEN I WAS IN THE SAME POSITION YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, THAT WASN'T HOW I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
WOAH, REALLY!?
I ALSO CAME TO THIS TOWN PRETTY RECENTLY.
KNOCK IT OFF, MY DAD IS A MILLION TIMES MORE HANDSOME THAN THAT OLD MAN.
SAME POSITION?
BUT THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, AND TED IS YOUR FATHER, ISN'T HE?
...AH...
WAIT...
C'MON, HURRY UP, MOVE IT, GO TO YOUR OWN ROOM AND SLEEP...
I DON'T WANT TO BE COMPARED WITH YOU EVEN IF I DIE.
THAT KINDA MAKES ME HAPPY~
THEN WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT!
Push
Push
Push


WHAT IS THERE TO DO THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
?
NNN
.....
'KAY, GOODNIGHT.
YOU CAN GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY AROUND OR SOMETHING, IT WLL BE YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE STAYING OUT UNTIL MORNING, I'M SURE IT'D BE GREAT.
SLAM


—OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
WE PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME.


TODAY WAS A WONDERFUL DAY.
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
I WAS SCARED AND WAS ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY, BUT...
I'M GLAD I TRIED RUMSPRINGA.
IN THE LORD'S NAME, WE GRATEFULLY OFFER OUR PRAYERS.
AME—
AAA


BANG!
BANG!
AH
AH
BANG!
CREAK
AHH
AH...
THERE
NJHU
BANG!
BANG!
AH
AH
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
MU
CREAK
WALL


SLAM
O...
AH~
YES
YES~
THERE
IF I JUST RAISE MY VOICE HE'LL ALWAYS GIVE ME A HUGE TIP, WHAT A GREAT CUSTOMER HE IS
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK


WHAA
DASH
WHAA
WAIL
WHA, SO MESSY
BUT YOU WERE MAKING SUCH A PAINFUL VOOIICCEEE
...UM, THIS IS MY JOB, AND
Sob
NO, NO WAY,
THIS GUY IS... WELL...
Ruffle.
HUH? WHAT? WE'RE GONNA HAVE A THREE-SOME WITH THIS GUY?
I DON'T WANT TO
Sob Sob Sob Sob
STARE
OOZZZ
ZIP
LET'S GO
PLEASE BE NICER TO HIM—


A DOG THAT I STARTED KEEPING
TODAY...
WAH
HEY, DANNY
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO GET THAT WORKED UP OVER, YOU KNOW?
YEAH, I KNOW... BUT...


I HAVE GENE AS WELL. SO I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST BE FEELING. BUT
DESPITE HOW IT MAY SEEM, THAT CHILD WILL BE FINE.
IT WILL BE FINE.
AFTER HE'S SATISFIED, HE'LL COME HOME.
LET US REST. SNOW IS COMING TOMORROW.
HEY, GENE!
COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME OF THAT FISH, TOO?
OF COURSE! THEO, DO YOU THINK YOUR GRANDMA WOULD MAKE US A PIE WITH IT?
OH, I'VE EATEN FISH PIE AT GENE'S HOUSE BEFORE.
IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS!
AH, WASN'T THAT ONE A HERRING?
TODAY I CAUGHT A RAINBOW TROUT. DO YOU KNOW, CHLOE TROUT USUALLY LIVE THEIR WHOLE LIVE IN FRESHWATER.
FRESHWATER?
THE WATER IN LAKES AND PONDS.


WOOOW!
IF THEY GO TO THE OCEAN, THEY CAN GROW UP TO FIFTY INCHES
COOL!
WHEN THEY GET THAT BIG, THEIR NAME CHANGES TOO. THEY'RE CALLED STEELHEADS
BUT SOMETIMES, THERE ARE A FEW WHO GO OUT TO THE OCEAN.
THEIR BODIES ARE ABLE TO LIVE IN OCEAN WATER TOO.
... ME TOO.
I ALSO WANT TO TRY GOING TO THE OCEAN.
WHEN HE'S SATISFIED,
HE'LL COME HOME.


GOING TO BE
A FAMILY.
... THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE.
BECAUSE WE'RE

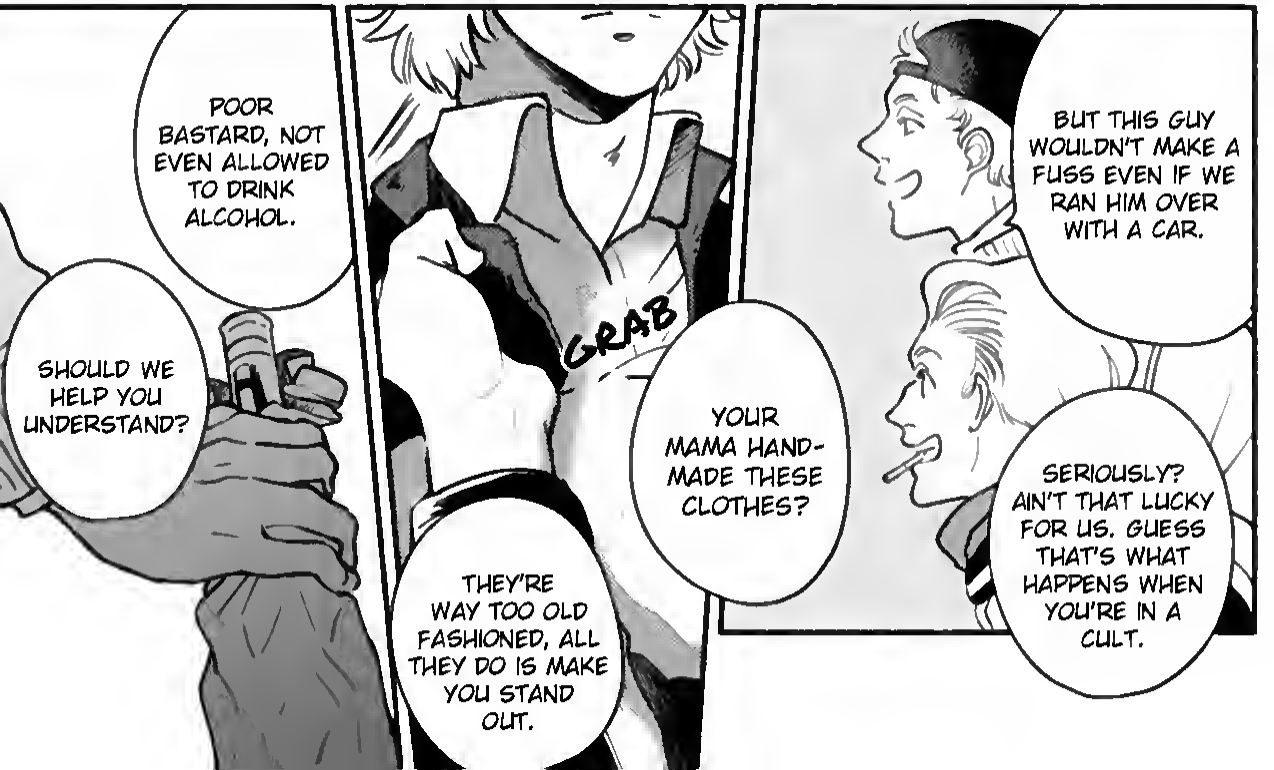

YEP, IT'S TRUE.
WOAH, IS THAT TRUE?!
AMAZING!!
SO ANYWAY, I'LL BE BACK.
HAHAHAHA
WELL, YEAH.
ONE CIGARETTE HAS THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF 50 HOT DOGS.
ARE CIGARETTES REALLY THAT TASTY?
I PLANNED TO BUY THEM WHILE WE WERE OUT BUT I GOT DISTRACTED.
CRAP! I'M OUT OF CIGARETTES, I FORGOT.


A CARTON OF PALL MALL.
HERE YOU GO.
AH~ I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN
WAIT HERE WITH THE BAGS.
OKAY!


I HEAD FROM A BUDDY OF MINE,
THEY USE THOSE SLOW AS HELL BLACK CARRIAGES PULLED BY HORSES ON THE ROADS. COULD YOU GUYS CUT THAT OUT?
DON'T YOU GET THAT YOU AREJUST CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE ELSE?


HEY, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU...
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT, YOU GUYS DO GO SHOPPING LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
ONE WAY


krillroy was here

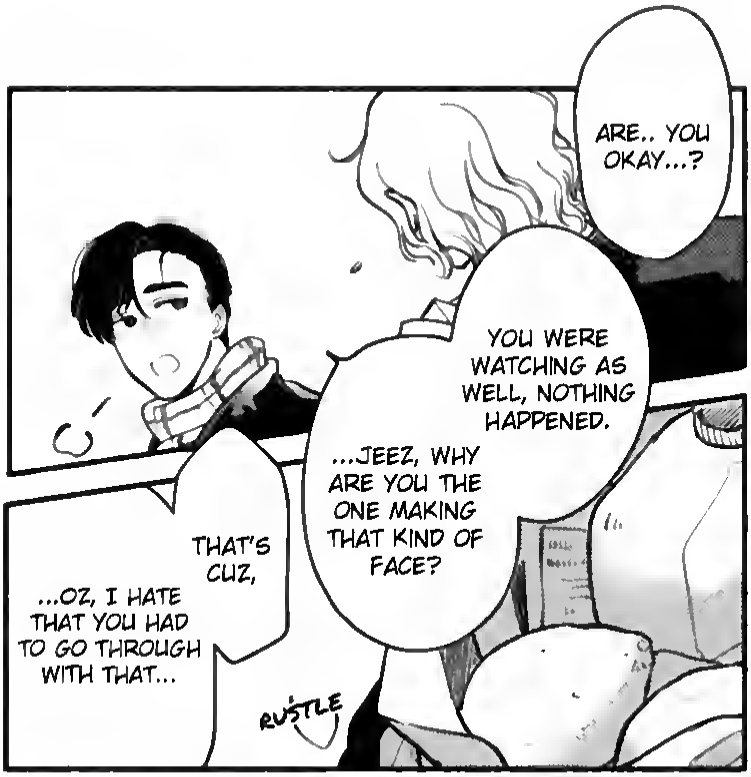

BUT THIS GUY WOULDN'T MAKE A FUSS EVEN IF WE RAN HIM OVER WITH A CAR.
SERIOUSLY? AIN'T THAT LUCKY FOR US. GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE IN A CULT.
GRAB
YOUR MAMA HAND-MADE THESE CLOTHES?
THEY'RE WAY TOO OLD FASHIONED, ALL THEY DO IS MAKE YOU STAND OUT.
POOR BASTARD, NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO DRINK ALCOHOL.
SHOULD WE HELP YOU UNDERSTAND?


HA
HA
Bon appetit!
HA
HA
HA
HEY, SEX IS A NO-NO TOO, RIGHT?
BRO, DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT YET?
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE WERE GAY OR SOMETHIN'.


I MEAN, SERIOUSLY.
THESE GUYS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO THEM, THEY WON'T COMPLAIN OR FIGHT BACK! IT'S HILARIOUS.
CRUNCH
EXCUSE ME,
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
...UGH, I'M BORED. LET'S GO.
THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE HE COULD BE TROUBLE.
HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE TREATED MY FRIEND
TO SOME ALCOHOL.
HUUH? YOUR FRIEND?


HUH?
I'M SORRY, HALF OF THE GROCERIES GOT...
...AH, OZ,
.....
THUD
THUD
?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
KICK


BASTARD
HOW DARE... ...?
...
...HUH?! IT'S YOU!
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
!!
THUMP
AREN'T YOU THE WAITER THAT PICKED A FIGHT WITH US THE OTHER DAY?!
AHH, IT'S YOU GUYS...
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU ENDED UP GETTING LUCKY AFTER THAT? I MEAN, SURE THEY WERE FLIRTING WITH ME, BUT I TURNED THEM DOWN, YOU KNOW
THOSE LADIES WERE SO INTO MY DANCING THAT THEY KINDA LOST IT AND STARTED THROWING THEMSELVES AT ME, WASN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD FOR YOU.
WHA
PFTT
YOU WANNA TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN?!
I ALREADY TAUGHT YOU A LESSON, DIDN'T I? GUESS YOUR BUTT-UGLY FACE WASN'T YOUR WORST TRAIT. FUCKER.
Asshole!!
FLICK
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO START IN FRONT OF MY STORE!!
YOU'RE DRIVING AWAY MY CUSTOMERS, I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS!!
BAKERY
CARLO'S Bakery
URK
STOP IT!!


ARE.. YOU OKAY...?
YOU WERE WATCHING AS WELL, NOTHING HAPPENED.
...JEEZ, WHY ARE YOU THE ONE MAKING THAT KIND OF FACE?
THAT'S CUZ,
...OZ, I HATE THAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH WITH THAT...
RUSTLE


O-OZ!


...IT'S NOT FINE, YOU IDIOT.
ACHOO!
WIPE
WIPE
WIPE




I WAS FINE WITH IT, THOUGH.


I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE THAT NO ONE WANTS TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
...BUT IN MY VILLAGE, NO ONE WILL TALK ABOUT IT.
IS IT NORMAL FOR YOU AMISH GUYS TO GET PULLED INTO SCUFFLES LIKE THAT?
LOOK, IT'S FINE. ...HEY,
OH NO, THE EGGS BROKE TOO.
...THOSE PEOPLE
...I SAY IT'S NO GOOD, BUT...
WITH US, EVEN GETTING ANGRY IS SOMETHING UNFORGIVABLE.
UNTIL JUST NOW, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT COULD BE ABOUT...
WITH YOUR FRAME AND THAT KIND OF WEAK PUNK, IT'D ONLY TAKE ONE HIT, RIGHT?
WHAT? I COULDN'T DO THAT, FIGHTING'S NO GOOD.
SO LOOK, IF YOU'RE A GUY, YOU SHOULDN'T JUST BE STANDING THERE, GO HIT THEM BACK.


BUT... RIGHT NOW
DURING "RUMSPRINGA", AREN'T YOU FREE FROM ALL OF THAT?
THERE ARE VARIOUS RULES.
BEING INTERESTED IN MUSIC, MOVIES, AND DANCING IS FORBIDDEN.
WE CAN'T SING SONGS OTHER THAN HYMNALS.
WE ALSO AREN'T ALLOWED TO READ ANY-THING EXCEPT FOR THE BIBLE.
FOR AMISH, ARGUING OR FIGHTING AREN'T ALLOWED.
TOWN MINI MART

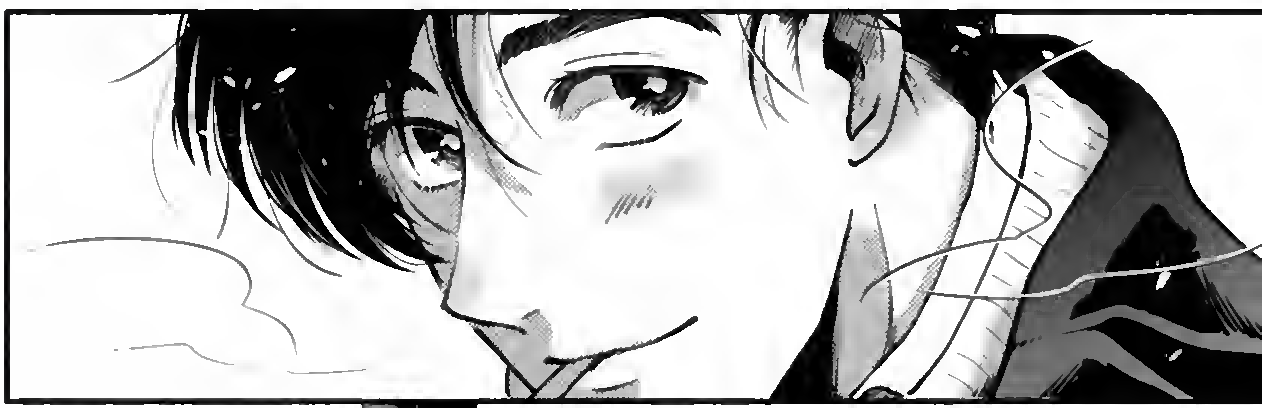

YOU.
SERIOUSLY
THAT'S RIGHT!
OH, THAT'S ALSO TRUE.
BRUSH
...BUT LIKE I THOUGHT, IT'S NO GOOD.
BECAUSE I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET ANGRY...
AND THAT'S WHY, OSWALD,


THANK YOU FOR GETTING MAD ON MY BEHALF.
YOU'RE SO KIND.
I'M BORROWING YOUR SCARF, SO YOU MUST BE FEELING COLD, RIGHT OZ?
LET'S HURRY HOME!


HMPFF
MMG
YOU FINALLY CALLED ME BY MY NAME! I WAS ALWAYS WAI-TING FOR—
AH! YAY!!
IS THAT
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?
THEODORE...
WHAT ...


BLUSH
HERE, THEO
TRY A CIGARETTE.
...KAY
PUFF
WHA!
HUFF


ACE MOTEL
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D CHOKE.
HOW BORING
HAHAHA, LOOKS LIKE I'M FINE.
THEN TOMORROW TOO, WE'LL JAM PACK IT.
AAA
WITH WHAT?
I'M SAYING I'LL TEACH YOU ALL SORTS OF FUN THINGS
FUN THINGS!?
YEAH!




ONE WAY
YOU'LL SEE. THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD ISN'T ONLY FILLED WITH DAYS LIKE TODAY.


TAP
IT WAS
LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM.
WHAT IS OFTEN CALLED A MAGNIFICENT FUTURE OVERFLOWING WITH ASPIRATIONS,
CHAPTER 3
OZ...!
BUT THAT WASN'T A GOOD THING.


WOW


REALITY.
OVER THERE, WHAT WAS BEING DISPLAYED WAS MY REALITY.
HAPPINESS CAN ONLY BE EARNED IN THE LIGHT.
THUMP
THUMP
AS THEY WATCH A BRIGHT AND SHINING STAGE.
BECAUSE PEOPLE, EVERYONE, WANTS TO BE ILLUMINATED BY THAT LIGHT,



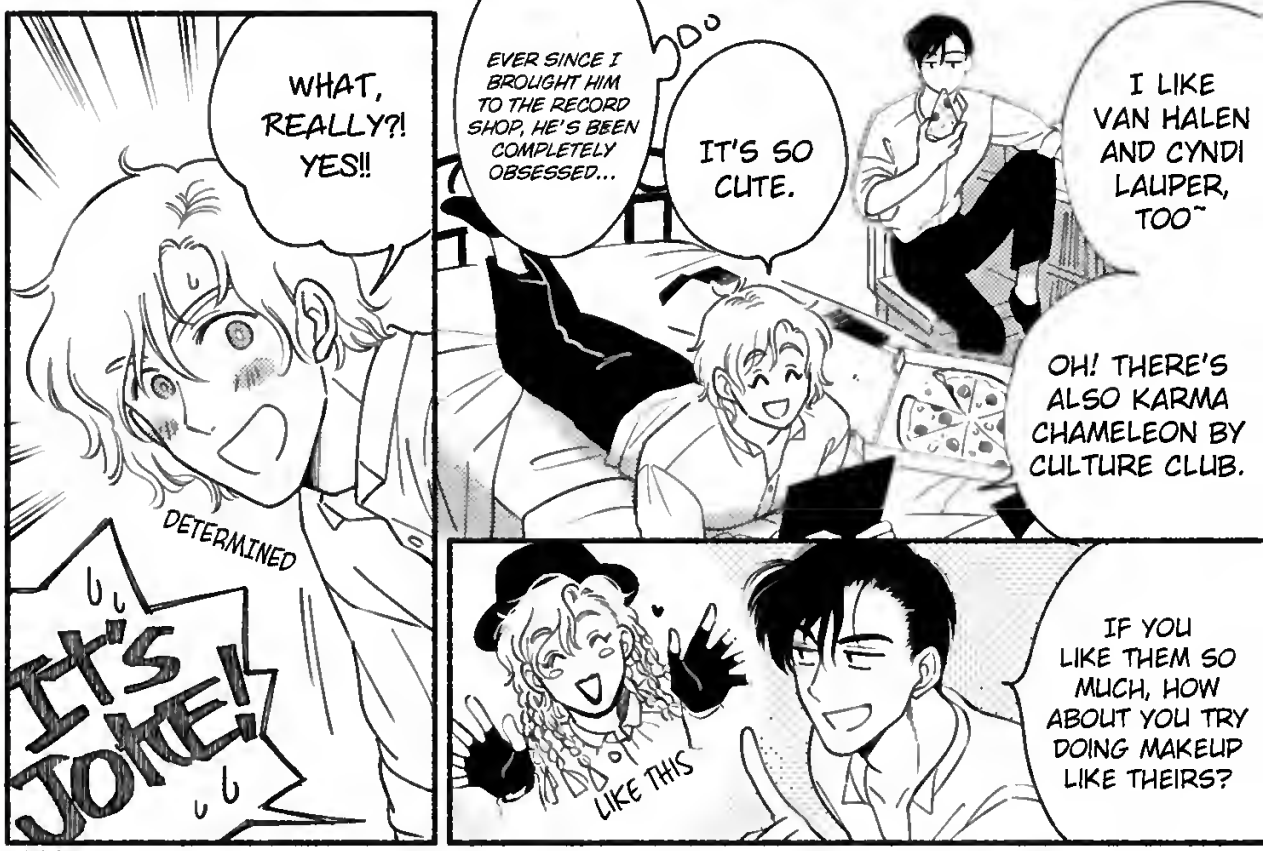
EVEN IF YOU'RE
COVERED IN MUD
AND DYING



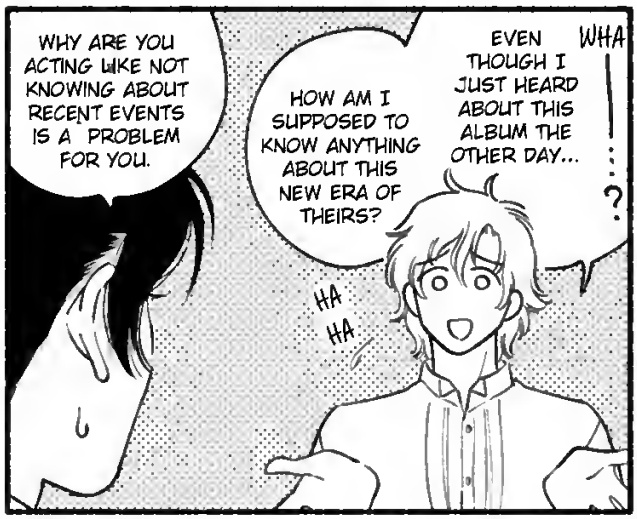
IN THE
SHADOW OF
THAT LIGHT.


JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, YOU'RE AN IDIOT AND DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE USEFUL SKILL, ALWAYS BEING CHEERFUL AND BEING ABLE TO MAKE EVERYBODY HAPPY IS GOOD FOR BUSWESS!
YOUVE REALLY HELPED OUT BY BECOMING SO POPULAR!
YEAH!
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN TOMORROW, THEO.
HM? YEAH!
GOOD BOY. WHO'S A BIG, HEALTHY BOY? YOU ARE!!
ALRIGHT, I'M HEADING HOME. YOU GUYS MAKE SURE TO LOCK THE BACK DOOR.
OKAY! THANKS TED!
JESUS, YOU DO NOTHING BUT START FIGHTS, YOU'RE DISAGREEABLE, UNSOCIABLE, AND YOU KEEP FILCHING THE ALCOHOL!
OI, DO YOU HEAR ME, OSWALD?
I DIDN'T STEAL NOTHIN', HURRY UP AND GO HOME.
WEREN'T YOU TALKING TO THEO?
YEAH!
WELL ANYWAY, I KNOW THIS IS THE SECOND TIME, BUT
I'M GOOD WITH PIZZA IF YOU ARE.
HEY OZ, CAN WE LISTEN TO THE ONE WE BOUGHT THE OTHER DAY?
AGAIN?!
MAN THEO, EVER SINCE YOU GOT HERE, THE BOSS'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT ME HAVE JUST BEEN GETTING WORSE.
... ALRIGHT THEN, SINCE TOMORROW'S A DAY OFF
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY HE GETS MAD AT YOU~~
YOU WANNA HEAD HOME TOO?


PIZZA PIZZA JAC
SCANDAL
IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE NEW YEARS, SPARE ME THE CHRISTMAS SONGS.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU LIKED IT TOO?
WHA
BUT IT'S A GOOD SONG!
AH, THAT ONE. LET'S NOT.
MM, THE "WHAM!" ONE.
YOU SAID THE ONE WE BOUGHT THE OTHER DAY? WHICH ONE?


WHAT, REALLY?! YES!!
DETERMINED
IT'S JOKE!
EVER SINCE I BROUGHT HIM TO THE RECORD SHOP, HE'S BEEN COMPLETELY OBSESSED...
IT'S SO CUTE.
I LIKE VAN HALEN AND CYNDI LAUPER, TOO~
OH! THERE'S ALSO KARMA CHAMELEON BY CULTURE CLUB.
LIKE THIS
IF YOU LIKE THEM SO MUCH, HOW ABOUT YOU TRY DOING MAKEUP LIKE THEIRS?

ITS [A] JOKE


WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE NOT KNOWING ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IS A PROBLEM FOR YOU.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS NEW ERA OF THEIRS?
HA HA
EVEN THOUGH I JUST HEARD ABOUT THIS ALBUM THE OTHER DAY...
WHA ...?

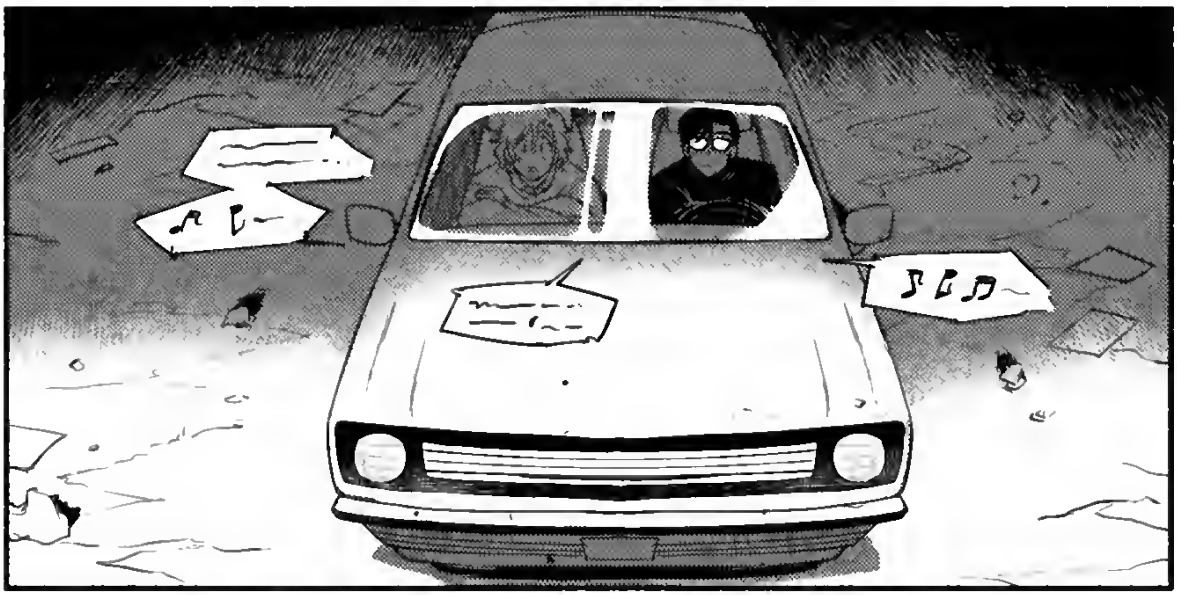

IT MEANS AS OF THE NEW CD
THAT GUY WILL BE ON THE RECORD INSTEAD.
AW MAN... BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THIS?


"52ND STREET"
52nd STREET
IT'S A STREET IN MANHAT-TAN.
HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
KIND OF... I LIVED IN THE SUBURBS.
MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT THERE USE TO BE A JAZZ CLUB IN THAT AREA, BACK IN THE DAY.
... YOUR FATHER?
CRAP
... IT'S A BORING STORY.
I WAS A DANCER IN NEW YORK
AND I WAS AIMING FOR BROADWAY.
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU,
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT A CUSTO-MER'S PAST, BUT
YOU DON'T SEEM TO TALK ABOUT YOURSELF EITHER, HUH.
.....


AMAZING!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY.
THAT KINDA STORY...
IN THE END, AFTER I QUIT I JUST KINDA STARTED LIVING IN THIS AREA...
HEY!
SOMEDAY, YOU SHOULD TAKE ME TO NEW YORK!
YOU... SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT.
THAT'S REALLY SURPRISING, CONSIDERING IT'S YOU
WOW
!!
I'VE HEARD OF IT!! BROADWAY IS THE PLACE WHERE THERE'S TONS OF MUSICAL? SHOWS? RIGHT?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
CHLOE TOLD ME ABOUT IT!
...I ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS TOWN WAS A BIG CITY, BUT
WHEN I HEARD THAT NEARBY IS A EVEN BIGGER CITY, THE BIGGEST CITY IN THE WORLD, I COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT...


SURE.
SEEING YOU IN THAT CITY WOULD BE SUPER INTERESTING.
YAY! THANKS OZ, THIS WILL BE SO MUCH FUN!
THAT'S ALSO WHERE Blonde Way IS!
Broad!
... HUH,
I WANT TO SEE SOME DANCING.
OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DANCE SO... I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.
Oh Broad!
AHH, IT'LL BE FUN NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, RIGHT?
I'M SURE IT'LL BE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING...








SO THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE YOU COULD WATCH MOVIES FROM INSIDE A CAR!
DRIVE-IN THEATERS ARE ALREADY DYING OUT, THOUGH.
THIS PLACE WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS SOON, TOO.
THEY'RE ALL AMAZING.
IT LOOKS LIKE SO MUCH FUN.
THE DANCING IS AMAZING.
OZ, DID YOU DANCE LIKE THIS?
KIND OF, I GUESS. BUT MY SPECIALTY WAS BALLET.
WOW!
...LOOKS FUN?
STOMP
YEAH, SUPER FUN!
YOU LIKE, MOVE YOUR LEGS A WHOLE BUNCH!
STOMP
THUD
HA!
WHA, WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME~
MY BAD.
IT'S CUZ WATCHING YOU IS WAY MORE INTERESTING THAN THE MOVIE.
HUH? RE-REALLY...?


I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
THANKS, OSWALD.
THANK YOU FOR GETTING MAD ON MY BEHALF.
YOU'RE SO KIND.
... HEY, OZ.


UM...
I'M..., WHEN...
LATELY, I'VE MAYBE BEEN A... BIT ABNORMAL, MAYBE.
WHEN IT COMES TO YOU BEING A NORMAL ISN'T JUST A LATELY THING.
NO I DON'T MEAN THAT.
EVER SINCE WE MET AND WE HAD THAT MISUNDERSTANDING, AND WE KI-...
HUH? HOW IT...
WE WERE BOTH FLUSTERED AND IT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING
SO I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL.
WE... K-KISSED.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT... HOW IT WAS.
I JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT, AND.
AND, AND THAT'S WHY
MAYBE...
ONCE MORE.
EVEN SO, I WANT TO REMEMBER...
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, IS IT?
IT'S BETTER IF YOU HURRY UP AND FORGET ABOUT...
I WANT TO REMEMBER


I SOMETIMES FIND MYSELF THINKING, I WANT TO TRY
JUST ONCE MORE
...KISSING YOU AGAIN
...
...MAYBE THAT'S KINDA WEIRD...?
YEAH, IT'S WEIRD.
... AH... AHAHA, YEAH, I THOUGHT SO...
BUT I'M NOT NORMAL EITHER.
YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, RIGHT?
STOCK


I SLEEP WITH MEN FOR MONEY.
I DON'T THINK... THAT YOU'RE WEIRD, AND IT DOESN'T GROSS ME OUT. BECAUSE I'M AN INDECENT GUY.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY WE WERE ABLE TO BECOME FRIENDS...
FR...
-IEND
S...


TONGUE
BAH
STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE.
NHAA...
PRESS
KISS
SUCK
KISS
...
.....
TIGHTEN...
PWAH
... HEY, YOU KNOW
CONFUSED...?
A LITTLE MORE
YOU'RE CONFUSED BECAUSE YOU WALKED IN AND HAPPENED TO SEE ME DOING IT.
NN
THAT'S WHY


UH... UM
AH?!
OZ
WHAT ARE...
CLICK
BUMP
HUH?
ZIP
I'LL MAKE YOU SEE THAT YOU DON'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD.
STUNNED...
POP
SLURP
SUCK
SLURP
SUCK


AH
...YO-! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THIS FAR FOR... ME...!
WHAT DO I DO, IT FEELS SO GOOD...
SERIOUSLY... IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'RE SO COMPOSED ALL THE TIME, WHEN YOU'RE THIS PENT UP
HA
AH
RUB
RUB
BUT WOW, HE'S HUGE.
COULD IT BE MASTRUBATION ISN'T ALLOWED EITHER?
WHA-!? I DON'T-KNOW...
I DON'T RE... REALLY DO IT... MUCH
DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHILE THRUSTING YOUR HIPS, YOU PERV.
I'M NOT A PERV!
HA
HA
HA
COM-! COMING...
AH.. NN_! .I'M..
SQUEEZE
THIS'LL BE QUICK, HUH.
AH
AH
STROKE
RUB
TWITCH
TWITCH
STROKE
RUB
AH!
NOT THERE.


SHAKE
SHAKE
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
SPLURT
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AH!
MOVE AWAY...!
AH...!!
HA
NO
YOU HAVE TO...
JOLT
HA
JOLT
MOVE, YOU'LL GET DIRTY
STUPID
IF I DID THAT, IT'D BE MORE OF A MESS, YOU KNOW.
ALH
SQUEEZE
THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT.
PWUA
COUGH
PAT
PAT
TWITCH
TWITCH
...THERE YOU GO.


I'VE CURED YOU AND YOU'RE ABLE TO THINK THINGS LIKE "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I DIDN'T SAY SOMETHING STUPID LIKE I WANT TO KISS ONE MORE TIME".
HA
UM, OZ
SO, DID THAT CLEAR IT UP FOR YOU.
...?
WHAT WE DID JUST NOW CLEARED OUT THE INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT
IF YOU HAVELEARNED YOUR LESSON YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND FOR YOURSELF
OZ.
HA!
THAT'S OBVIOUS, HUH?
WELL, BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS STICKING AROUND ME AND I'M THAT WAY.
YOU'RE MORE OR LESS AN ADULT, SO
I'M A RENT BOY, SO IT WAS MY OWN FAULT, BUT
Any time.
... THANKS FOR COMING OUT WITH ME AGAIN TODAY.


BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
THE MOVIE
AND THE DANCING WAS AMA-ZING.
I WAS HAPPY...
AGAIN, YOU TAUGHT ME SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT AND
I WANT TO GO HOME FOR TODAY.
HEY
DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS JUST
SAYING ABOUT...
HURRY UP AND START THE CAR.
WHY?
MORE THAN THE MOVIE. MORE THAN THE MUSIC
THUNK
BATTLE
THEO?
RIGHT NOW I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO EXPERIENCE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
PLEASE, OZ...


I WANT
ONE NIGHT WITH YOU.
LET ME HOLD YOU. PLEASE, OSWALD...!!

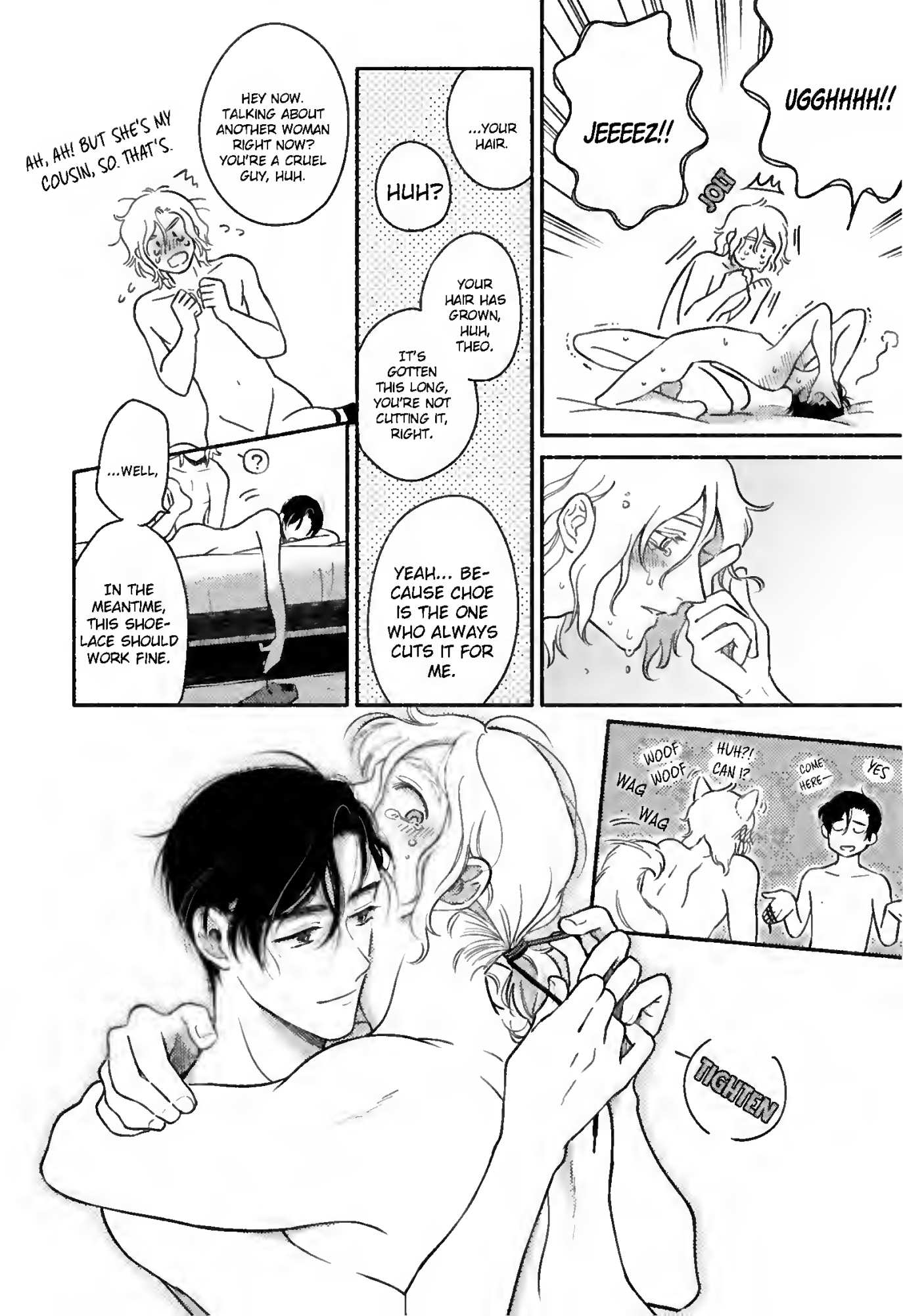

RUSTLEL
HA HA
RUSTLEL
RUSTLEL
HA
FWISH
HA
CREAK
HA
SLAM
SKORP
SKORP
SKORP
HA
HA
HA
SCREECH


CREAK
BUT OZ, IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ONCE FOR YOU.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU JUST COME TOO, FAST...!
WHA-... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, IDIOT
ANYWAYS, YOU...
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU...
HA
HA
CREAK
CREAK
SLAP
CREAK
SLAP
CREAK
HA
CREAK
SLAP
SLAP
OZ
OZ, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL.
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
HA
HA
AH, I'M COMING
I'M GONNA
HA
HA
FWA...
AHH
AHN
! AH... HA...
HA
SPLURT
GUSH
HA
NN!
OH, !...
HA
HA


GULP
I... CAME TOO, SO
YOU'RE SATISFIED, RIGHT? THEO...
HA
HA
HA
LOOK!
SPREAD..
GRAB
WHOA
SLAM
CREAK
HE- HEY! AGAIN? WAIT AH...
HA
HA
SLAM
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
OZ
I WANNA KISS YOU
DRIP
HICCUP
HUH?!

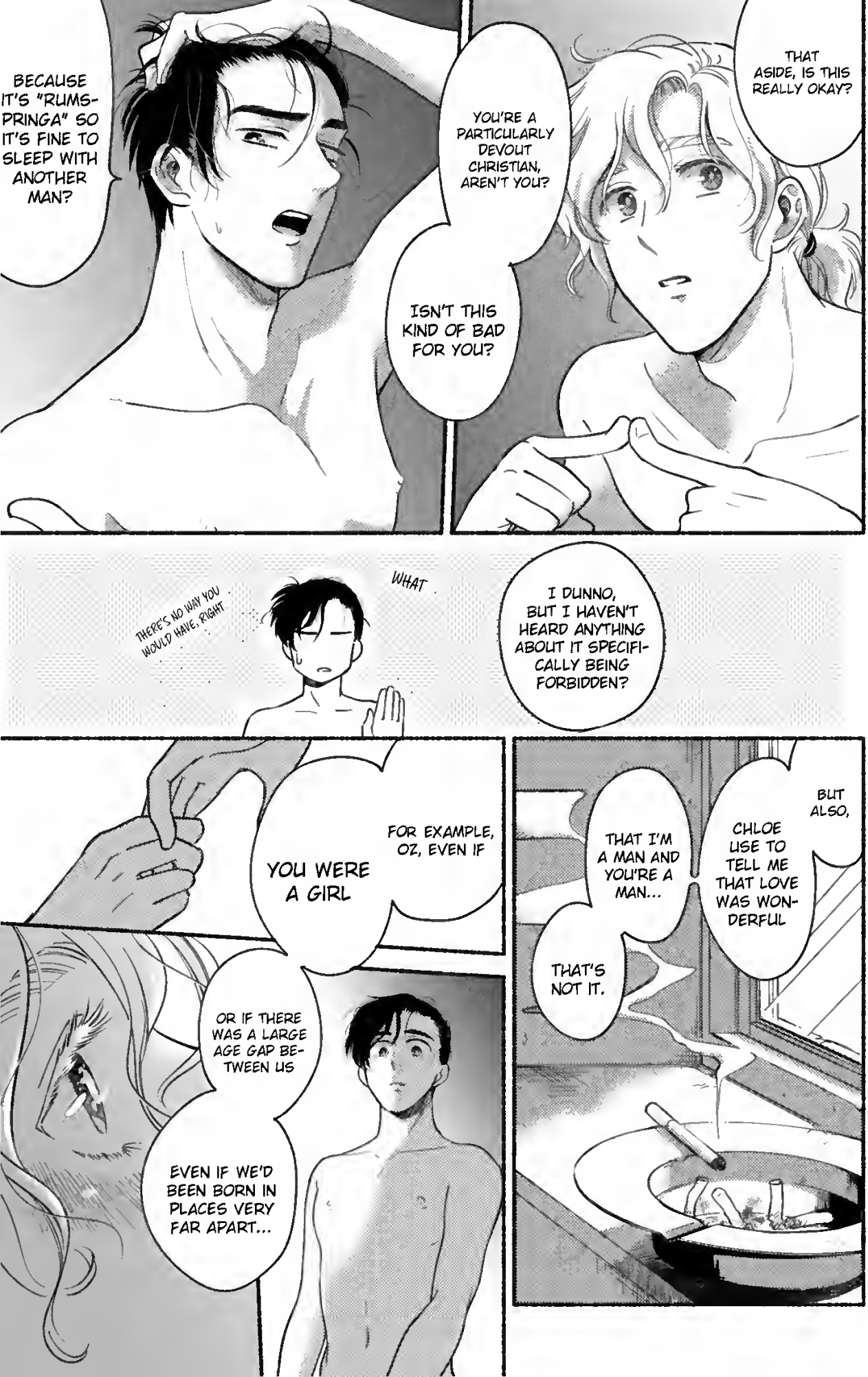

HA
HA
EVEN WITH ALL THAT
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE I'M—
PAT
PAT
MWUAH
MUNCH
AH
DON'T BREATHE SO HEAVILY WHILE WE'RE KISSING
WHY, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WITH A CRAPPY KISS
WHAT THE
UWAAAA
KISS ME, OZ
UGH
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, IT'S FINE!!
OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT
WHY
AH
AH
AH
GLUG
AND HAVING SEX LIKE TEENAGE BRATS
RUB
RUB
NU...!
GUSH
GUSH
SUCK
KISS
KISS
KISS
MWUAH

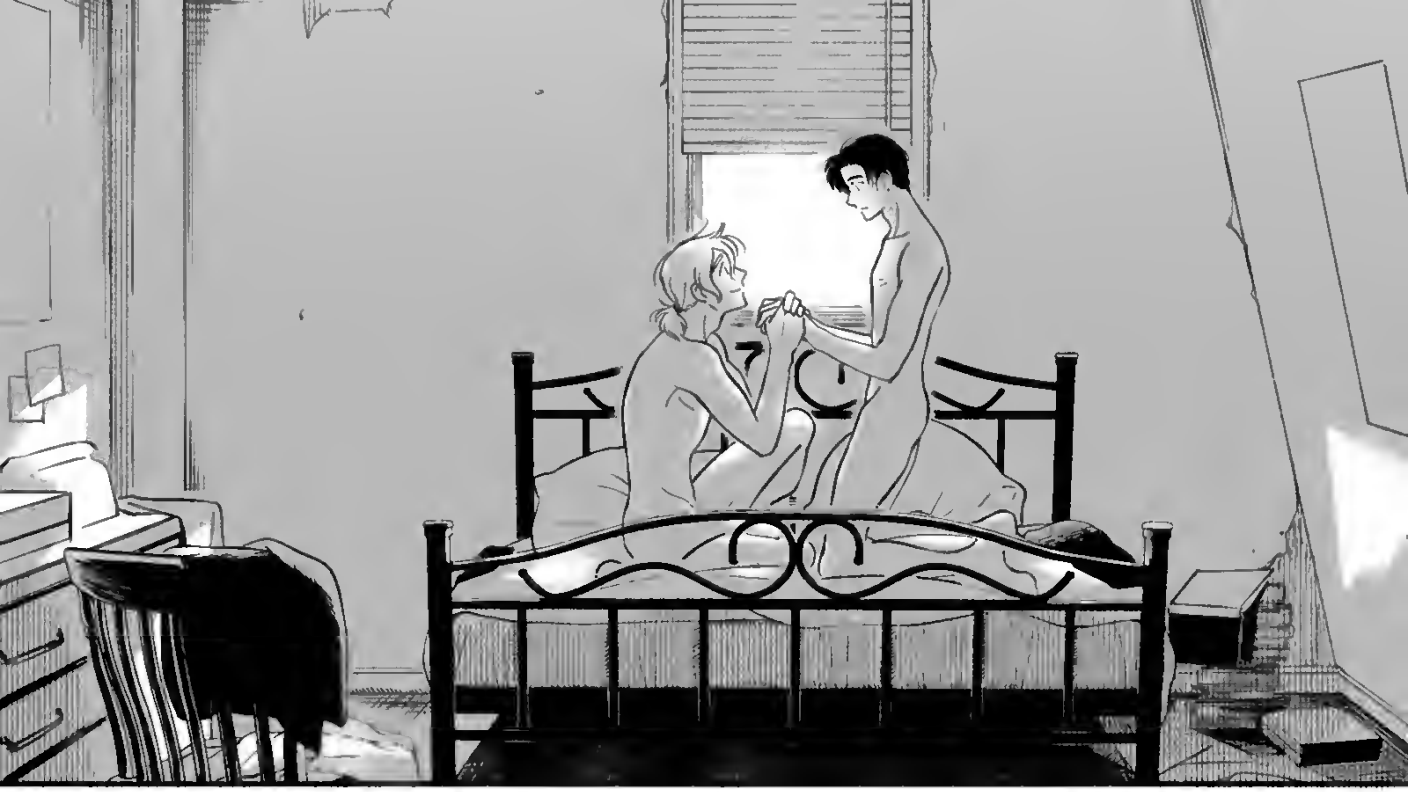

I CAN'T LET THIS GUY PULL ME IN ANY MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS.
THIS IS BAD.
AHH
OZ
OZWALD,
PLEASE... DON'T JUST.
OTHERWISE...
DON'T SAY I'M CONFUSED ABOUT HOW I FEEL FOR YOU


AH, AH! BUT SHE'S MY COUSIN, SO. THAT'S.
HEY NOW. TALKING ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN RIGHT NOW? YOU'RE A CRUEL GUY, HUH.
...WELL,
IN THE MEANTIME, THIS SHOE-LACE SHOULD WORK FINE.
...YOUR HAIR.
HUH?
YOUR HAIR HAS GROWN, HUH, THEO.
IT'S GOTTEN THIS LONG, YOU'RE NOT CUTTING IT, RIGHT.
YEAH... BE-CAUSE CHOE IS THE ONE WHO ALWAYS CUTS IT FOR ME.
JEEEEZ!!
UGGHHHH!!
JOL
WOOF WOOF
WAG WAG
HUH?! CAN I?
COME HERE—
YES
TIGHTEN


...DOES IT SUIT ME?
...YOU MIGHT BE MANLIER THAN ME.
I'M JEALOUS, THEODORE.
TWEET
TWEET
CHIRP CHIRP...

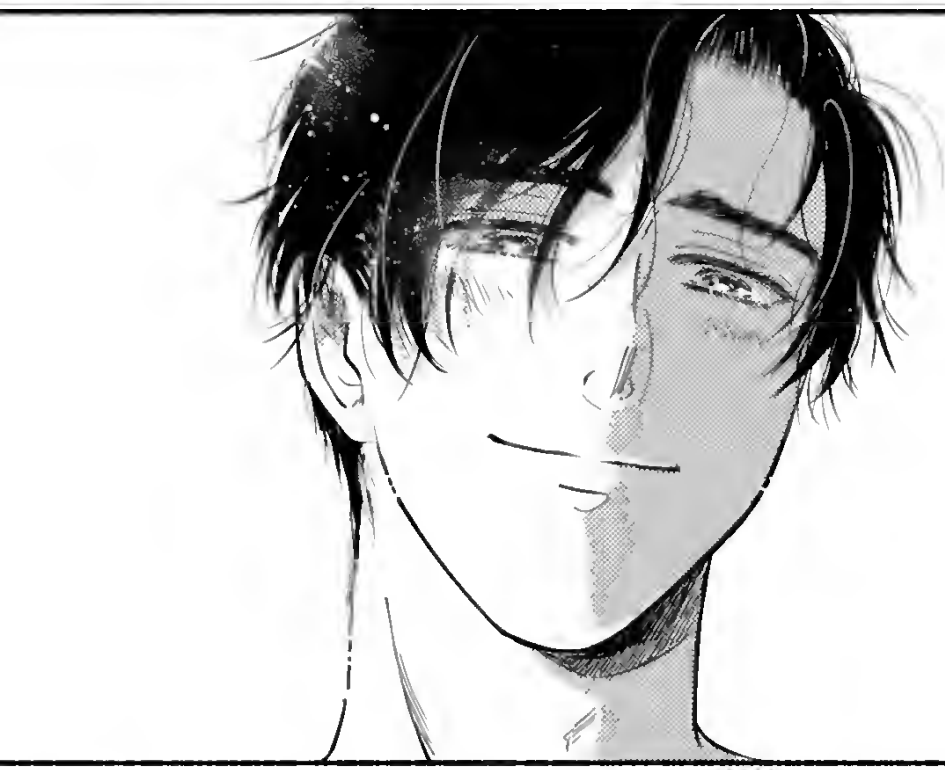

YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON WHO WAS SUPPOSE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS
CHIRP
CHIRP
GAH
JUST ME...
WHAT THE HELL, WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'VE TURNED INTO AN ADULT ALL THE SUDDEN...
THWACK
THWACK
BLOW
THEODORE...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN COOL HEADED
THAT WAS!
JUST ONE TIME, TO COOL YOUR HEAD...
BUT OZ, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT ME TO SMOKE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BUT, OZ.
...IN THE END, JUST WHO END UP REGRETTING SOMETHING, HUH...
I'VE PROBABLY JUST MADE THINGS WORSE.
... WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE. IT'S FINE
AH, DON'T SAY THAT, IT'S EMBARRASSING..
IT FELT TOO GOOD, AND I JUST~
AAH
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA KILL ME
HOW IS DOING IT MORE THAN TEN TIMES IN A ROW A COOL HEADED THING TO DO?

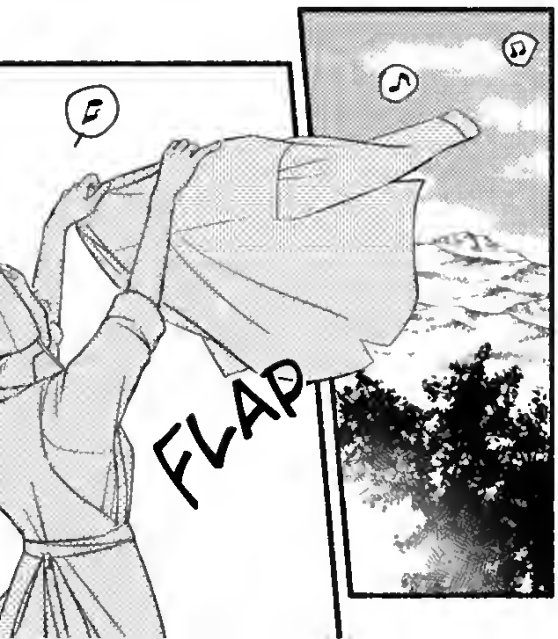

THAT ASIDE, IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
YOU'RE A PARTICULARLY DEVOUT CHRISTIAN, AREN'T YOU?
ISN'T THIS KIND OF BAD FOR YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S "RUMSPRINGA" SO IT'S FINE TO SLEEP WITH ANOTHER MAN?
I DUNNO, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT SPECIFICALLY BEING FORBIDDEN?
WHAT
THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD HAVE, RIGHT
BUT ALSO,
CHLOE USE TO TELL ME THAT LOVE WAS WONDERFUL
THAT I'M A MAN AND YOU'RE A MAN...
THAT'S NOT IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, OZ, EVEN IF
YOU WERE A GIRL
OR IF THERE WAS A LARGE AGE GAP BETWEEN US
EVEN IF WE'D BEEN BORN IN PLACES VERY FAR APART...

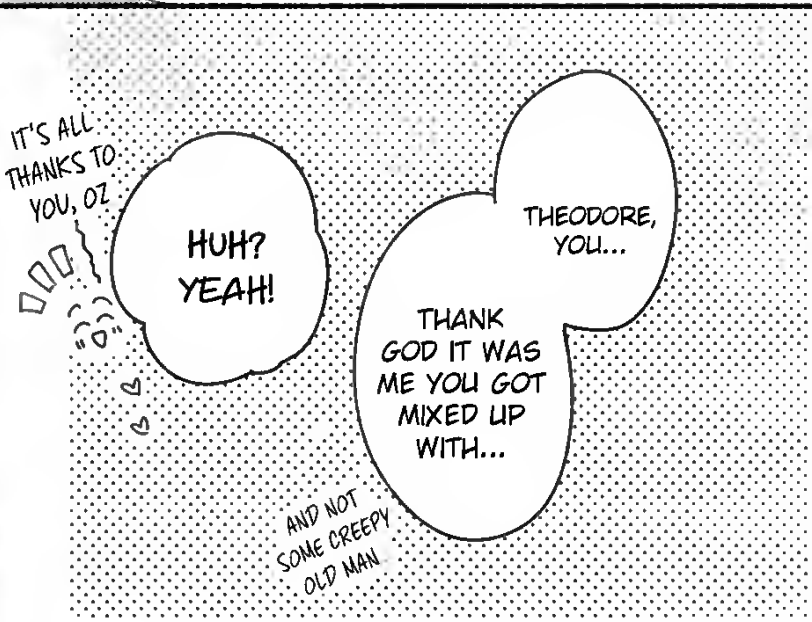



I KNOW I WOULD HAVE MET YOU SOMEWHERE, AND THEN
YOU WOULD HAVE TAUGHT ME ABOUT THIS WORLD, AND
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, OZ.
OZ, I ADORE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.


IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD, I LOVE YOU THE MOST!
OZ
OZWALD




FLAP


IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, OZ
HUH? YEAH!
THEODORE, YOU...
THANK GOD IT WAS ME YOU GOT MIXED UP WITH...
AND NOT SOME CREEPY OLD MAN


♬From this valley they say you are going
♬We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile
Smack
?
♬For they say you are taking the sunshine
That has brightened our path for a while
Night Club
Boo~


♬Come and sit by my side if you love me
♬Do not hasten to bid me adieu
♬But remember the Red River Valley
♬And the man who loved you so true...
THAT'S NO GOOD, CHLOE.


THERE YOU GO SINGING THAT SONG AGAIN...
... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
CRASH
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
I'LL CLEAN THIS UP, SO
YOU GO AHEAD AND GO UPSTAIRS, OZ.
DON'T CUT YOUR HANDS.
'KAY.
AHH... EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NOT DROPPED ANYTHING IN A WHILE...
GOOD THING THE OLD MAN HAD ALREADY GONE HOME, HUH, THEO.

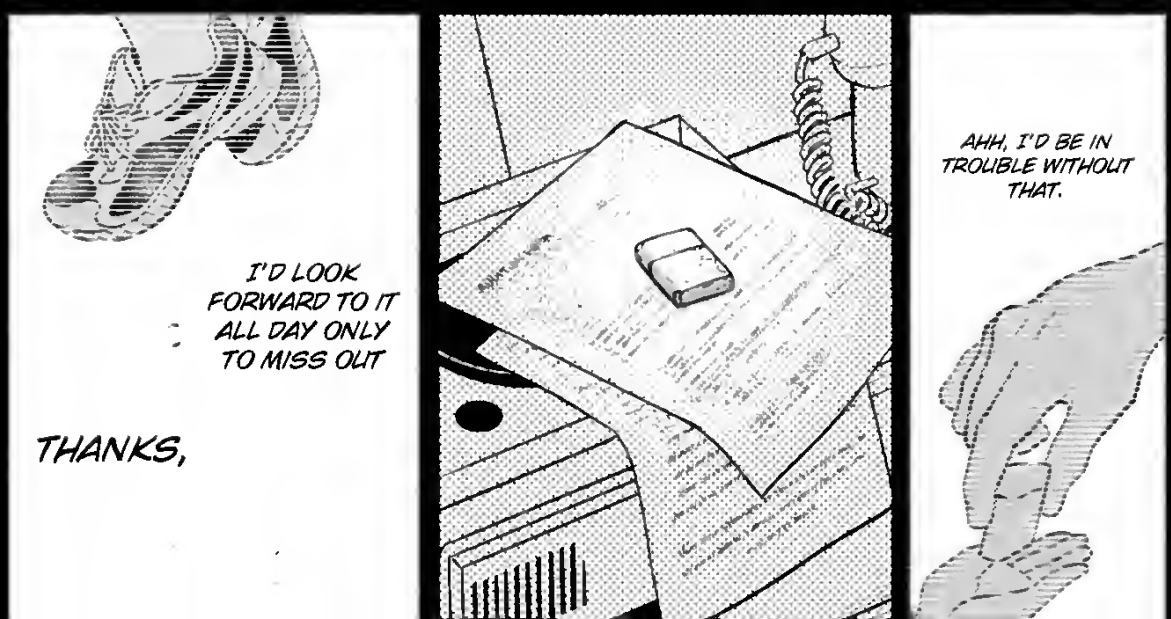

JEEZ, EDDY. DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO CALL ME?
YEAH, THAT'S WHY I SAID, MY BAD.
I'LL PAY YOU GO THE NEXT TIME, SO
NO GO
I'VE ALREADY QUIT DOING THAT KIND OF WORK
SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
CLINK CLINK
UM, EXCUSE ME
WE'RE ALREADY CLOSED FOR THE DAY...
CREAK
CREAK
A CUSTOMER?
AH
OUCH
THE HELL? IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE TO WASH YOUR HANDS OF THIS, PLUS IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU, OZ.
YOU HAVE A BAD HABIT OF OPENING YOUR LEGS FOR ANYONE WHO...
SO, I STARTED KEEPING THIS BIG DOG.
HUH?
HE'S STARTED TO GET IN THE HABIT OF SLEEPING RIGHT NEXT TO ME
HE'S KINDA PATHETIC, RIGHT? OH, THERE HE GOES WHINING AGAIN, WELL, BYE.
HEY, WAI...
CLICK



DADDY



DADDY, DON'T FORGET YOUR LIGHTER!




LISTEN TO WHAT AUNT CONNIE SAYS.
WHEN I GET BACK FROM VIET-NAM, BEFORE I RETURN HOME TO THIS HOUSE, I'LL COME TO 42ND STREET
IF YOU DANCE REALLY WELL, OLIVIA...
THERE'S NO DOUBT, MOM IN HEAVEN WILL BE OVERJOYED.
OZ!
DADUN
DADUN
DADUN
DUN
114
FOR YOU...
I'M SURE YOU'LL SHINE SOMEDAY, OZ.
YOU'RE DIFFE-RENT FROM ME. WE'RE ALL WATCHING YOUR AMAZING TALENT...


THIS TOWN IS WHERE YOU BELONG.
AH
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK


BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T SAY I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO.



*THE SONG USED IN THE STORY IS THE AMERICAN FOLK SONG "RED RIVER VALLEY"

CHAPTER 4

Stop!

AND... KID IN THE YELLOW BANDANA, WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER? I CAN'T SEE IT.

NUMBER 23 NUMBER 34,

NUMBER 56...

IT'S 79.

NUMBER 79, YOU'RE ALSO IN.

NUMBER 147...

NUMBER 124

NUMBER 105

NUMBER 91

.....

.....

...
THAT'S ALL.

FOR THE REST OF YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR...

EXCUSE ME!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHOSE NUMBERS WERE JUST CALLED, REST UP A BIT.

THE FINAL AUDITION WILL BEGIN IN 30 MINUTES.

...
YOU ARE?

I'M SURE I SAW YOU AT A DIFFERENT AUDITION LAST MONTH.

UM, NUMBER 114...

OZWALD CARTER.

MR. CARTER, HUH.

LAST MONTH WAS THE SAME AS TODAY.

NO, LAST MONTH I WAS THERE UNTIL THE LAST ROUND OF AUDITIONS.

AND THE TIME BEFORE THAT, TOO

Wait.

HEY, I SAID YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES.

IF YOU DON'T TAKE THIS CHANCE TO COOL DOWN, YOU GUYS ARE GOING HOME TOO!

114

...CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT WASN'T ENOUGH?

AH...

YOU'RE A BIT WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO TAP.

YE-, YES, THAT'S WHY THIS TIME I FOCUSED PREDOMINANTLY ON PRACTICING TAP.

IF IT'S STILL NO GOOD, THEN NEXT TIME

IT WAS VERY GOOD.

HUH ...?

YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB AT IMPROVING ON YOUR WEAK POINTS IN JUST A MONTH.

BUT—

YOUR JAZZ IS ALSO FLAWLESS, AND

THERE ARE NO ISSUES WITH YOUR FACE.

YOUR BALLET IS PERFECT.

114

TWEET

CHIRP CHIRP.

CHIRP

.....

CHIRP

YAWN ...

WHEN THE HELL AM I GOING HOME, IF I DON'T DECIDE, THEN...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I'M AT...

CHIRP...

CHIRP

CHIRP ...

TWEET TWEET

TWEET

SORRY, SORRY

AH

YOUR EYELASHES ARE SUUUPER LONG

WELL, YOU REALLY DO HAVE A PRETTY FACE. I'M JEALOUS, OZ.

SLAM

I INTRODUCED MYSELF THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.

IT'S NOT AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST, SO PLEASE CALL ME BY MY NAME.

IT'S NOT "YOU", IT'S CHLOE.

DON'T JUST COME INTO A STRANGE MAN'S BEDROOM...

YOU, AREN'T YOU A MARRIED WOMAN?!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE NOT JEALOUS ABOUT IT?

?

WHY?

WELL, YOU'RE THEO'S LOVER, RIGHT?

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE NOT THEO'S MOTHER, HUH.

MAN, THAT KID. EVEN THOUGH HE'S IN A BRAND NEW PLACE, HE JUST KEPT TALKING ABOUT ME?

I REMEMBER... "CHLOE". I'VE HEARD YOUR NAME SO MANY TIMES, IT'S EXHAUS-TING.

LOJUM!

IT'S A JOKE.

UGH ...

YOU CAN'T JUST CAMP OUT HERE ALL DAY.

COME ON NOW

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP? IT'S ALREADY NOON, YOU KNOW.

I'M GOING TO WASH AND THEN HANG UP THE SHEETS, SO GET OUT OF THE WAY FOR ME, PLEASE.

IF YOU COULD LEND A HAND, IT'D BE REALLY HELPFUL.

NO FREE LUNCH

THE PREPARATION FOR LUNCH TODAY NEEDS A LOT OF WORK.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT,

CAN YOU REALLY CALL FOOD YOU EAT AT 3 IN THE MORNING "BREAK-FAST"

WOULD YOU LISTEN

TAKE OFF WHAT YOU'RE WEARING NOW, I'LL WASH IT AT THE SAME TIME.

YANK

REALLY NOW, CAN'T YOU SHOW UP FOR BREAKFAST AT LEAST ONCE?

NO!!

THE PROMISE WAS 6 MONTHS. COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.

HUH?!

DANNY?!

I'M PARKED DOWNSTAIRS. I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.

... YES, PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO HELP OUT...

OZ, WHAT HAPPENED?

I HEARD YOU SHOUT...

LOOK, THEO.

I WANT TO STAY THAT LONG TOO...

BU- BUT CHLOE GOT TO LIVE ON THE OUTSIDE FOR TWO YEARS, DIDN'T SHE?

.....

NO?

H-HUH...? CAUSING TROUBLE...

YOU SHOULD JUST COME HOME AFTER ALL.

BESIDES THAT, YOU'RE JUST CAUSING TROUBLE FOR MR. CARTER, RIGHT?

OZ

YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT.

YOU HAVE TO USE SIMPLE ENGLISH SO HE UNDERSTANDS...

I'M CONCERNED BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

IT WAS FINE BECAUSE CHLOE IS SMART!

OZ

WAAAHH

LET'S GO.

I CAN'T EXACTLY SAY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN A BOTHER.

THAT'S FOR SURE...

SEE.

OK DANNY

...JUST DANNY IS FINE.

DANIEL WALKER.

I MEAN, MR., UH...

WELL, HOW ABOUT LETTING HIM GO FOR NOW, DAN...

I'M JOKING, THEO.

WHAT, REALLY?!

THIS GUY ISN'T A KID ANYMORE.

GIVEN HOW LITTLE HE KNEW FROM HAVING NEVER GONE OUT, HE'S DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB, DON'T YOU THINK?

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT SORT OF THING DOESN'T MATTER, MR. CARTER.

AND WERE GENERALLY HAPPY WITH HOW HE'S DONE AS A STAFF MEMBER

MAINLY JUST THAT GRANDMA FROM ACROSS THE STREET AND THAT OLD MAN FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN

(IN A SMALL VOICE)

THERE ARE EVEN CUSTOMERS WHO COME AROUND JUST TO SEE THEO

IS THAT ONE OF YOUR AMISH RULES, OR IS IT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO HOLD HIM BACK?

HALF A YEAR IN THIS TOWN, AND AFTER RUMSPRINGA WAS OVER, TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE.

THAT WAS THE PROMISE WE MADE.

I UNDERSTAND.

THEO...

BUT

OH

I'LL GO HOME.

NO, THAT SHOULD BE MY QUESTION.

WHY?

... HUH?

I'M BRINGING OZ WITH ME.

WHEN I WAS LOST AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, OZ SAVED ME. I'M GREATLY INDEBTED TO HIM, DANNY.

SMILE!

UGH.

I WANT TO THANK HIM SOMEHOW.

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR!"

SQUEEZE!

WE CAN SEE IT NOW! IT'S OVER THERE.

AND WHEN IN ROME, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS THE ROMANS DO...

HOW IS THIS THANKING ME? I JUST GOT PUT TO WORK...

SORRY, TED.

IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I'LL BE BACK.

THIS IS WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE~

WHOOSH

AFTER THAT, I WENT TO THEO'S HOME TOWN. SERIOUSLY. IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS.

CLANK CLANK

CLANK CLANK

WOW...

WELL THEN, LET'S GO PREPARE FOR LUNCH, SHALL WE?

ONCE IT'S FINISHED, WE'LL MAKE A SILO NEXT TO IT.

IT'S A BARN.

WHOSE HOUSE ARE THEY BUIL-DING?

SLIP

I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS AREA RIGHT HERE...?

YOU IDIOT...

HEY OZ, LOOK ~

COME ON, THAT'S DANGEROUS.

HEEEEEY!

THEO.

THEO

YOU CAN'T BE MESSING AROUND WHEN WE'RE UP HERE.

THAT SCARED ME

SORRY, DANNY.

YOU'LL REALLY CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR PEOPLE IF YOU DO...

...THEO.

WHEW

HEY CHLOE, WHO'S THAT GUY? IS HE ENGLISH?

HE'S HANDSOME, RIGHT?

YEAH! HE'S A FRIEND THEO BROUGHT

HE'S STAYING AT OUR HOUSE FOR A WHILE.

T/N: AMISH REFER TO NON-AMISH AS "ENGLISH"

THANKS FOR HEL-PING OUT, OZ.

EHEHE, SORRY.

YOU'RE SO DUMB.

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY GOOD AT THIS.

WELL, YEAH.

I AM WAITER.

ALRIGHT, LET'S ALSO TAKE OUR SEATS.

SOMEHOW, I FEEL SUPER OFFENDED.

... OKAY! THE PRAYER IS OVER, SO IT'S OKAY TO EAT THAT BREAD NOW.

BLUSH

YOU WERE HUNGRY, RIGHT?

. . .

YOU CAN STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

IS THAT RIGHT, A FRIEND OF THEO'S?

WHAT?!

THAT'S MY MOM.

THAT'S MY DAD.

WHAT

HELLO.

YOU MUST BE THEO'S FRIEND.

YES?

WHO'S THIS NEXT TO YOU?

WHAT'S THIS? YOU'VE LET YOUR HAIR GROW OUT.

IT'S THEODORE'S FRIEND.

BUT THIS GUY IS ENGLISH, ISN'T HE?

THEO WAS JUST ON RUMSPRINGA, YOU KNOW.

WHAT? SO HE FINALLY WENT THROUGH RUMSPRINGA.

IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, THIS IS AWKWARD ...

I'M MUCH OBLIGED...

THEO! YOU'RE BACK?

HA HA HA

IT'S JUST A JOKE, CHLOE.

THERE'S NO WAY IT'D TURN OUT LIKE JEAN...

ROB.

THERE WAS REALLY ONLY THAT LEFT TO BE AFRAID OF, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.

WELL, IT'S THEO, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

THAT'S TRUE. GOOD KIDS LIKE HIM ARE PRETTY RARE.

THEODORE'S SUCH AN ANGEL!

HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT.

BY THE WAY, WE'RE THOSE GUYS FRIENDS OF YOURS?

IS HE WORKING AWAY FROM HOME OR SOMETHING?

HMM...

OH NO, THEY'RE ALL MY BROTHERS.

WHAT

THE THIRD TIME TODAY

HE'S NOT IN THE VILLAGE RIGHT NOW.

OH, YOU CAUGHT THAT? JEAN IS DANNY'S BROTHER.

"JEAN"?

YOU'VE GOT SOME SAUCE HERE.

SNEAKS AWAY

OH RIGHT, THERE ARE MORE CHILDREN NOW.

EI-, EIGHT...

OF ALL OF US EIGHT SIBLINGS, THEO'S THE YOUNGEST.

THE OTHER THREE ARE AT THE TABLE OVER THERE

HEY WILLY, SO OZ PICKED ME UP WHILE I WAS IN THAT TOWN...

HIS OLDEST BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY LIVES WITH HIS PARENTS, SO IT'S FULL.

YOU'RE STAYING AT DANNY'S PLACE? SORRY ABOUT THAT.

BLOW

SERI-OUSLY, WHEN AM I GOING HOME?

THEO WANTS TO SHOW YOU HOW COOL HE IS, HUH.

DESPITE HOW HE SEEMS, HE'S BETTER THAN ANYONE WITH HIS HANDS, DESPITE HOW HE SEEMS.

BLUNDERS LIKE TODAY DON'T USUALLY HAPPEN.

RIGHT.

WOAH

THIS IS DELICIOUS...

THANKS FOR THE CAKE.

... SORRY

SO SMOKING IS NO GOOD EITHER, HUH.

AH, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CAKE? IT WAS SERVED AFTER THE MEAL.

I THINK IT'S PROBABLY A LOT TASTIER THAN THAT THING IN YOUR MOUTH.

I SEE. IF THAT'S AS FAR AS HE WENT, THEN I'M GLAD.

HE LISTENED TO MUSIC, WATCHED MOVIES, DRANK ALCOHOL...

HE GOT A PART TIME JOB AND LIVED ON HIS OWN.

... HMM... WELL... PROBABLY EXTREMELY NORMAL?

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEO'S RUMSPRINGA?

MR. CARTER,

IT'S A "GRACE PERIOD" FOR AMISH, RIGHT? WHAT'S CRUEL ABOUT THAT?

BUT RUM-SPRINGA ...?

BECAUSE ORDINARILY, IT'S RATHER CRUEL.

SHE HAS A STRONG WILL, BUT SHE HAS A WOMAN'S DETERMINATION

BY THE WAY, CHLOE WAS A VERY TROUBLED MISS, HONESTLY.

THE MARRIAGE ISN'T UNTILNEXT WEEK, BUT I EXPECT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN FROM HERE ON OUT.

THAT'S ENOUGH BRAGGING.

BUT AS THEO'S ALREADY AN ADULT, HIS SITUATION IS A LITTLE PECULIAR.

THAT KID IS... WELL, YOU KNOW.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT WHILE LISTENING TO CHLOE'S STORIES ABOUT RUMSPRINGA.

HE HAD NO INTEREST IN WORLD OUTSIDE THIS VILLAGE. ...I GUESS YOU COULD SAY YOU COULD SAY HE WAS SCARED OF IT.

TRADITIONALLY, RUMSPRINGA TAKES PLACE AROUND THE AGE OF 16, TO GAIN EXPERIENCE.

WHEN THERE'S DRUGS OR OTHER SUCH THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

BUT IN ACTUALITY...

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, RIGHT?

...THE ELDERS OF THIS VILLAGE SEE RUMSPRINGA AS... MERELY PUBERTY OR A LITTLE "SPRING BREAK".

THEY COME HOME TO US, WITH A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF THEIR HOMETOWN.

AND THEN THEY UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW WEAK MANKIND IS TO GREED.EVEN THOSE WHO HAD BEEN YEARNING AFTER THE OUTSIDE REALIZE THEIR HOMETOWN WAS RIGHT, AND THEY COME HOME.

FOR A MOMENT, THEY BECOME A PRISONER TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, BUT IN THE END, THEY END UP SEEING HELL.

WE LIVE OUR LIVES REJECTING ALL KINDS OF WORLDLY PLEASURES, AND WHEN SOMEONE GOING THROUGH RUMSPRINGA IS PRESENTED WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT, IT'S EASY TO GET CAUGHT UP IN.

IN OTHER VILLAGES, THERE ARE EVEN STORIES ABOUT GUYS WHO CUT IT A LITTLE TOO LOOSE AND WIND UP DEAD.

... YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY WELL THOUGHT OUT SYSTEM, HUH.

BUT LET ME JUST SAY ONE THING...

I DON'T PARTICULARLY ACCEPT OR REJECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

DO YOU FIND IT DETESTABLE?

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT, JUST MY OWN PERSONAL INTERPRETATION.

YOU'RE AWFUL CHATTY TODAY, DANNY.

WHETHER I FIND IT DETESTABLE OR NOT, NOTHING WILL CHANGE, RIGHT?

...WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE THIS CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

• • •

I'VE NEVER EVEN ONCE DONE DRUGS, OKAY.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'D GO AS FAR AS STRAIGHT LACED.

YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY STRAIGHT LACED...

THA-... THAT'S ... HOW SHOULD I SAY...

I DEFINITELY SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT RECKLESSLY SLEEPING WITH RANDOM MEN FOR MONEY.

I THINK HE'D KILL ME...

NO... SORRY ABOUT THAT, TRULY.

PLUS, EVEN THOUGH HE COMPLAINS ABOUT IT, BEFORE TED EVEN SAYS ANYTHING HE CLEANS EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE BATHROOM!

DAMMIT, WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO...

IGNORES

I THINK YOU HAIR LOOKED FINE BEFORE, THO~

EVERY MORNING, HE ALWAYS CAREFULLY DOES UP HIS HAIR, BECAUSE HE SAYS HE HATES IT IF HE DOESN'T LOOK PROFESSIONAL.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT IT FROM LOOKING AT HIM, OZ IS SUUUPER STRAIGHT LACED!

POP

YOU'RE RIGHT, DANNY!

DON'T WORRY, THEODORE.

EVERYONE HERE KNOWS HE'S A GOOD PERSON.

HA HA HA

I'M NOT SCARY AT ALL

THERE THERE, CALM DOWN

AND WHEN A REGULAR BROUGHT IN HER GRANDSON, OZ DID HIS VERY BEST TO

MMPH!

YOU'VE SAID MORE THAN ENOUGH, SHUT UP THEO.

IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN THROWN INTO AN OLD WESTERN FILM.

THEIR WAY OF LIFE TOO, IS THE SAME AS IT WAS 300 YEARS AGO.

GENERALLY, THE GERMAN THEY SPEAK HASN'T CHANGED.

BECAUSE

HE'S SOMEONE YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU.

BECAUSE THEY IMMIGRATED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA IN GERMANY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA IN AMERICA IN THE 18TH CENTURY

THE ONLY BOOK IS THE BIBLE, AND THE ONLY SONGS ARE HYMNS.

THE CHILDREN'S DOLLS HAVE NO FACES

THEY USE ONLY THE BARE MINIMUM OF WHAT'S NECESSARY.

AND ONLY WHEN THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE,

THINGS LIKE GAS AND ELECTRICITY ARE NOT USED...

OPEN AIR "WASHING MACHINE"

EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE WITH MANUAL LABOR IS DONE WITH MANUAL LABOR,

GO TO CHURCH CARRYING, EACH HOUSEHOLD GATHERS AND EVERYONE PRAYS

THERE AREN'T ANY LIGHTING RODS, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY LAWSUITS, EITHER.

BECAUSE THEY REVERE PRE-DESTINATION,

EVERYONE WHO HAS DISPUTES SETTLES THINGS CALMLY, AS IT'S OBVIOUS THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE...

TRUTH-FULLY, AT FIRST

THEY DESIRED THEIR OWN FREEDOM AND STRUGGLED TO FINALLY ARRIVE AT THIS PLOT OF LAND

AND NOW THEY LIVE A LIFE BOUND BY RULES.

SEEMS KIND OF CONTRADIC-TORY...

IS WHAT I THOUGHT. BUT,

IT'S NOT THAT WE'RE GOING AGAINST THE TIMES OR TRYING TO REBEL AGAINST CHANGE, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

HONESTLY, IT ISN'T A LIFE WHERE WE JUST CHOOSE WHAT IS AND ISN'T NECESSARY.

IT'S SIMPLY,

LIKELY, EVEN WHILE WE WONDER IF THIS REALLY IS THE RIGHT WAY.

WE PACE OURSELVES

THIS IS JUST HOW WE'VE ENDED UP CHOOSING TO LIVE,

FOR US, THE OUTSIDE WORLD MOVES TOO QUICKLY.

BEFORE I KNEW IT,

EVEN THOUGH I SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN NEW YORK,

I STARTED TO FEEL NOSTALGIC FOR THIS PLACE I HAD NO RELATION TO.

TO THE POINT WHERE I EVEN THOUGHT THING THINGS LIKE, "I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME",

THEODORE SULLIVAN'S HOMETOWN WAS WONDERFUL.

LET'S GO HOME, OZ.

WHERE IN THE WORLD AM I THINKING "I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME" TO, ANYWAY.

"THIS IS JUST HOW WE'VE ENDED UP CHOOSING TO LIVE"

EVEN THOUGH I RAN AWAY A LONG TIME AGO...

"DON'T WANT TO GO HOME", HUH.

"CHOOSING TO LIVE..."

Ah
YOU BROUGHT THE ALCOHOL?
WERE YOU OKAY, OZ? WITH CHOE AND DANNY.
I DIDN'T FORGET! MY FATHER DIDN'T GO TO BED UNTIL LATE.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN OUR RENDEZVOUS.
HERE, THIS IS YOUR SHARE
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THEIR KID.

AND IN HIS LAST MOMENTS, HE WAS LOOKED AFTER BY HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN... I THINK HE MUST HAVE BEEN HAPPY.

I THINK THAT'S HOW I'LL TURN OUT TOO, BUT...

HE WAS BORN HERE AS AMISH AND DIED HERE AS AMISH,

BUT?

EVERYBODY IN THIS VILLAGE IS LIKE FAMILY TO ONE ANOTHER.

NOPE. WE WEREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT

THAT OLD MAN'S FUNERAL TODAY... WAS HE ALSO A RELATIVE OF YOURS?

KISS

OLD MAN...OZ, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

AH... EVERY DAY IS REALLY LONG, HUH?

DOING DANCE PRACTICE ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE MAKES TIME PASS SO QUICKLY I FEEL LIKE I'M TURNING INTO AN OLD MAN.

HEY OZ, HOW IS LIFE HERE?

EHEHE

YOU'RE KIND OF A SMOOTH OPERATOR NOW, THEO.

SOON I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO BACK AT ALL.

I HAVEN'T CONTACTED THE BOSS, PLUS THERE ARE NO PHONES HERE

MY ROOM WILL BE PROBABLY BE RENTED OUT TO SOMEONE ELSE...

HEY, DANCE.

...AH... BUT I THINK THAT'S FINE.

BUT THE ABILITY TO WAIT FOR THINGS FOR A LONG TIME CHANGES FROM SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE TO SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE SUDDENLY ABLE TO DO

AND THEN, YOU START BEING UNABLE TO WAIT AGAIN...

WHEN A CHILD BECOMES AN ADULT, OBVIOUSLY THEIR BODY GETS BIGGER, HEAVIER, AND THEY GET MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH,

HE, HE'S OLDER THAN ME THAN I THOUGHT ...

20 YEARS OLD

A REAL ADULT

BADUMP

OZ, LET ME

WATCH YOU DANCE!

WHA!?

TAKES OFF

JAMS IN

WHA, WHY'D YOU, UNDRESS

BECAUSE YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND.

?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...



HA...

...I SUCK AT THIS NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR...

OZ...

IT'S "MOON RIVER".

HEY THEO, LET'S DANCE.

IT'LL BE FINE, I'LL TEACH YOU JUST ENOUGH.

HUH?! NO WAY, I CAN'T! I DON'T KNOW HOW.

AH

I USE TO DANCE IN THE STORE FOR TIPS, YOU KNOW.

CU... CUT IT OUT, THAT'S EMBARRAS-SING.

IT'S LIKE... SOMEHOW, I... JUST... HAA... I LOVE YOU...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, NO ONE'S WATCHING.

HMMM, THE LEGS ARE SO COMPLICATED

... AND THEN THE LEFT HAND GOES HERE, MIDDLE OF THE BACK... YES, THAT'S IT, YOU'VE GOT IT.

AH~ I'M STARTING TO FEEL THE ALCOHOL, TOO.

RIGHT~?

AH~ THIS IS SOMEHOW REALLY FUN!

AHHAHAHA

SPIN SPIN

SPIN SPIN

DANCING IS SO MUCH FUN, I LOVE IT!

THIS MUST BE WHY YOU WERE AIMING TO BE A DANCER.

OWCH!

AH—

MR. MOON IS REALLY PRETTY.

WOW

WHOOO

WUMP

DO YOU ACTUALLY LIKE DANCING?

IT'S NOT

THE MOON ISN'T

MY DANCE ISN'T...

...

YOU'RE WRONG.

OBVIOUSLY, AMBITION IS IMPORTANT, BUT... BEFORE THAT IS CONFIDENCE AND ENJOYMENT.

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO WHY?

THAT'S WHAT HELD YOU BACK LAST TIME, TOO.

114

YOUR EXPRESSION SHOWS TOO MUCH IMPATIENCE.

IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE OFTEN IMPORTANT DECIDING FACTORS.

DON'T LOOK SO SCARED, I'M NOT CRITICIZING YOU.

AH

YOU'RE WRONG!!

IF YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING YOURSELF, THEN...

BUT, MR. CARTER,

NO, MAYBE IT WAS PHILLIP.

...WAS IT THE PRODUCER, REX, YOU SLEPT WITH?

YOU GET IT, RIGHT,

I'M SAYING EVEN AFTER DOING "THAT", YOUR SKILLS STILL WEREN'T ENOUGH.

EVEN DOING THAT WON'T GET YOU CHOSEN. IN OTHER WORDS,

BUT THAT, TOO.

CREAK

MY BAD, I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET YOU ON A PREVIEW PERFORMANCE THIS TIME, TOO.

CREAK

BUT EVEN THAT MUCH IS FINE?

CREAK

YOU SAID IT WAS FOR YOUR FATHER'S SAKE OR SOMETHING... SO SWEET IT MAKES ME TEAR UP.

NOW THEN, MOAN FOR ME LIKE YOU LIKE ME, OZ.

CREAK

COME ON, OZ,

I STOOD ON OFF BROADWAY STAGES NUMEROUS TIMES.

THAT'S THE REALITY OF THIS TOWN.

Smile!!

A LIGHT POINTED AT THE DREAM FOR ETERNITY

THE LIGHT YOU CAN ONLY DREAM ABOUT LEADS YOU THERE

EVERYONE IN THAT CITY ARE JUST MOTHS ATTRACTED TO THE LIGHT IT GIVES OFF

AND WHEN YOU REALIZE YOUR MISTAKE, YOU BEGIN TO QUESTION THE CITY

"WHERE IS THE NEXT ONE?"

"WHAT WILL THE NEXT ONE DO?"

ドル!!

DANCER,

ACTOR,

MUSICIAN,

"WHO'S NEXT?"

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS WERE...

AROUND THE TIME WHEN

MY FATHER WENT TO VIETNAM AND DIED,

...

THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WERE CHEERING.

BECAUSE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT CRT,

THE ASTRONAUTS WERE BREATHING ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON.

MY FATHER ENTRUSTED HIS DREAM TO ME BEFORE HE LEFT,

AND WHEN MY FATHER CAME HOME,

I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO BE PERFORMING 42ND STREET.

BUT I... COULDN'T DO IT.

AND

ALL THAT CAME HOME WAS A CHEAP LIGHTER.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TALENT...!!!

WHEN I WAS A KID, EVERYBODY TOLD ME HOW GOOD I WAS

BUT EVENTUALLY I REALIZED I WAS NO BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE...

OZ

I WAS SUPPOSED TO STAND ON THAT STAGE AND DANCE AND BE SHOWERED IN APPLAUSE. I NEEDED TO

MY FATHER NEEDED ME TO, BUT HE WAS... DADDY WAS

OZ

SUFFERING, SOMEWHERE IN A COLD, FAR AWAY COUNTRY, UNABLE TO BREATHE

EVEN NOW!!

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN?!

BUT EVEN SO, I RAN AWAY.

ANYWHERE WAS FINE,

ANYWHERE BUT THAT CITY. I WANTED TO DISAPPEAR.

GRIP

AND DADDY,

I BETRAYED HIM, AND-

HEY, OZ.

HE'S NOT DISGUSTED, EITHER.

HE JUST LOVES YOU.

THAT'S ALL.

YOUR FATHER ISN'T EVEN A LITTLE BIT MAD, YOU KNOW.

IT'S KIND OF MYSTERIOUS, HUH.

HOW SOMEONE AS MUCH OF AN IDIOT AS I AM CAN UNDERSTAND THIS MORE THAN YOU.

OZ, EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS KNOW EVERYTHING, AND YOU'RE SO SMART...

THAT'S WHY, EVEN NOW, YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOUR DREAM

AND EVERY MORNING YOU SECRETLY PRACTICE DANCE IN OUT BACK.

I KNEW ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS.

THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO SAVE HIM.

OZ, YOUR FATHER LOVED YOU SO, SO MUCH.

...HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT

I KNOW.

I'M SURE YOUR FATHER LOVED YOU

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU TOO, OZ. SAME AS HIM.

I KNOW IT,

OZ.

OZ,

I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, SO I NEED YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.

BUT JUST REMEMBER THIS.

JUST LIKE MOM AND DAD MET,

YOU WILL SURELY FIND SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU.

AH, SORRY. YOU DON'T WANNA LISTEN TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

EVEN IF DAD IS UNABLE TO COME HOME...

LOVE YOU, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.

AND JUST LIKE DAD,

THAT PERSON WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER.

MY PRECIOUS BABY BOY...

NO MATTER WHAT, I ONLY EVER WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.

EVEN THOUGH

THEY'RE NOTHING ALIKE.

IT REALLY IS MYSTE-RIOUS...

I WONDER WHY I FORGOT.

WHY

THEO

BUT HEY, INSTEAD!

LET'S NOT.

YOU KNOW BEFORE, WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE ME TO NEW YORK. ...BECAUSE I ASKED YOU TO.

AT THIS RATE, I'LL LIVE AND DIE IN THIS PLACE,

AND STILL NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD, AND... I DON'T WANT THAT.

FROM HERE ON OUT FOR—EVER!!

SQUEEZE

LET'S GO BACK TO TOWN AND LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN!

I TRIED COMING BACK HERE, BUT JUST LIKE I THOUGHT

LIKE THE THINGS THAT OZ HAS COME TO KNOW... I WANT TO KNOW MORE, I WANT TO KNOW ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

I WANT TO CHANGE, TO BE ABLE TO DO MORE, TO BE ABLE TO DO LOTS OF THINGS.

I WANT ...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

.....

YOU CAN COME BACK HERE ANY TIME.

THAT TOWN IS CLOSE, AND

OKAY.

CHLOE

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEO WENT?

I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO COME BACK... GOOD GRIEF, AND DURING SUCH A BUSY TIME.

WHAT COULD THEY BE DOING?

I WANTED TO ASK HIM TO CHANGE SOME HORSE SHOES.

I DIDN'T SEE THEM IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN, THOUGH... I WONDER IF THEY WENT TO SLACK OFF SOMEWHERE.

AFTER LUNCH, THEO AND OZ WENT TO HARVEST SOME VEGETABLES FOR ME.

HAA

KISS

NN

KISS

HAA

YOU'RE BEING UNREA-SONABLE. THERE WAS NO HELPING THAT, RIGHT.

SINCE WE GOT HERE, YOU HAVEN'T LET ME DO IT EVEN ONCE.

THA-, THAT'S BECAUSE

...YOU'RE SO GREEDY.

kiss

kiss

•Nn

YEAH... A LOT...

SO CUTE ...

IT MUST ME EXHAUSTING. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BURST.

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT LIVING IN THAT TOWN...

WELL... MAKING A GUY AS LEWD AS YOU WAIT SO LONG... IT MUST BE KILLING YOU.

YOU TALKING DIRTY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...

AND WHEN YOU COME, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT?

IF YOU TELL ME, I'LL GIVE YOU A PRIZE.

WH... AAAT...?

DO YOU THINK OF ME WHEN YOU'RE ALONE AND TOUCH YOURSELF?

HEY, THEO.

FOR A WHILE NOW, I'VE DONE IT

EVERY DAY WHILE I THINK OF... YOU...

HA

HA

!... YOU PUTTING MY... PENIS... INSIDE OF... YOU

AND BRINGING YOUR HIPS DOWN OVER AND OVER AGAIN, RUBBING AGAINST ME...

SLIDE

...SHALL I FULFILL SOME OF THOSE WISHES FOR YOU?

SLIDE

TWITCH

...OR CUMING LOTS INSIDE YOUR STOMACH...

OR YOU USING YOUR TONGUE ALL OVER ON ALL OF MY WEAK SPOTS...

STUFF LIKE...

THAT ...

JOLT

YEAH

AH

HA

HA

RUSTLE

ah

SLIP

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...

HU, HURRY ...

HA

HUN

RUSTLE

AH

AH

HEY...

NO WAY, IT'S EMBARRAS-SING.

...

KISS

HEY OZ, SAY YOU LOVE ME...?

I REALLY LOVE YOU...

HA

HA

I LOVE YOUUU

NN...

OZ, I LOVE YOU...

NN

HAA...

SLAP

SLAP

WHAT

KISS

KISS

I-IDIOT

DON'T SUCK THERE...

AH...!

I WANT TO DO THIS FOREVER...

haha

I'M SO INCREDIBLY HAPPY, OZ.

MM...

THAT FELT AMAZING.

SHOVE

HEY OZ, ONE MORE TIME...

WHY DID...

THAT WAS SUDDEN, WHAT'S UP?

AH...

DANNY...

HEY, THIS

IT ISN'T... I'M

GO HOME, THEO.

...GO

DANNY, WAIT

THEO.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH THAT MAN.

...WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU DOING

I DON'T JUST CRY EVERY TIME I FALL DOWN ANYMORE, YOU KNOW...

SNIFFLE

LEMME SEE YOUR KNEE.

IS IT BLEEDING?

CLOE...

WHAT HAPPENED, THEO?

DOOR

DANNY'S JUST GOT A LITTLE MAD AT ME, THAT'S ALL.

SORRY.... IT'S NOTHING.

HE'S JUST SCARED, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH JEAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...

DANNY LOVES YOU.

HEY CHLOE... TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RUMSPRINGA.

AGAIN? YOU REALLY LIKE HEARING ABOUT IT, HUH.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS FULL OF FASCINATING THINGS.

I THOUGHT, SURELY, THERE WAS SOMETHING I TOO WOULD HAVE TALENT IN. THERE WERE SO MANY POSSIBILITIES.

I THOUGHT I COULD DO ANY-THING, BECOME ANYTHING.

IT WAS WHEN I WAS 16.

IT WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT I WENT TO A SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN MANHATTAN.

...WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE ABOUT DANNY?

BUT WHEN I CAME BACK HERE, DANNY CONFESSED TO ME.

I WAS OVERJOYED.

WHEN DANNY PROPOSED TO ME... I THOUGHT,

YEAH, CHLOE'S A LITTLE BIT STRANGE LIKE THAT.

HEHE, ACTUALLY HE CAN BE SELFISH AND GREEDY.

I LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM.

HMM, MAYBE IT'S HIS CHILDLIKE SELFISHNESS.

WHO, DANNY? BUT HE'S MORE ADULT THAN ANYONE.

AT THAT TIME, I UNDERSTOOD.

WHY PEOPLE LOVE... WHY PEOPLE ADMIRE LOVE...

HEY, THEODORE

"LOVE" IS WONDERFUL.

AT THAT TIME, I

WAS ABLE TO THROW AWAY MY CHANCE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD WITHOUT HESITATION.

"AH, AFTER ALL, JUST LIKE THIS,

I'LL MARRY HIM AND BECOME A MOTHER, AND A GRANDMOTHER, AND LIVE OUT MY LIFE IN THIS VILLAGE IN HAPPINESS.

MY WHOLE LIFE, UNTIL I DIE."

YEAH, I KNOW.

I ALSO...

IT'S WONDERFUL...

BUT IT'S A WONDERFUL CURSE.

AH, SHIT... NOW I'VE GONE AND DONE IT.

I THINK THAT MIGHT TROUBLE MY EMPLOYER, SO...

...TODAY, BUT...

IS THAT SO.

WELL THEN, IT'S FINE IF YOU COME VISIT US AGAIN.

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME. I'M SURE THEODORE WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED.

I REALLY MEAN THAT. HOWEVER,

I WAS WONDERING, WHEN WAS IT THAT YOU WERE PLANNING ON GOING HOME?

BY THE WAY, MR. CARTER.

OH DEAR... THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK SO DEFENSIVE.

IT WAS MERELY A BRIEF FLING OUT OF A PASSING CURIOSITY, RIGHT? I DON'T INTEND TO BLAME YOU.

IF YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK THERE WITH THEO...

TALKING ABOUT WANTING TO LIVE IN THAT TOWN, TOGETHER.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD FORGIVE THAT.

THUD

IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH THAT HE COULD COME BACK JUST TO SAY HI.

HEY NOW, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GOING OVERSEAS OR SOMETHING, HERE.

LOOK, DANNY,

IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL.

THEODORE IS AN ANGELIC KID, RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO OVERPROTEC-TIVE...

MARRY A GIRL WHO WAS ALSO BORN HERE, RAISE. A CHILD HERE, DIE HERE.

TO BE BORN HERE, WORK THE LAND HERE,

THIS IS THE UNIQUE BLESSING THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO THEO.

IGNORANT AND INNOCENT, THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING AND ALWAYS PRAYING TO GOD.

HE HASN'T CHANGED, EVER SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.

...ANGELIC

THAT CHILD IS SPECIAL.

THAT'S NOT FOR YOU TO DECI...

THAT CHILD EXISTED, IGNORANT,

CONFINED TO THIS PLACE AND ONLY THINKING ABOUT HAPPY, PLEASANT THINGS.

ALL OF THAT, BEING STOLEN AWAY ...

...SO YOU SAY, BUT... WASN'T GETTING VANGRY AGAINST THE RULES FOR AMISH?

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

TO HAVE A PARTNER THAT'S A MAN, IT'S ABSURD.

IT'S REPULSIVE !!!

THIS ISN'T ANGER, JUST A WORD OF ADVICE.

SEEING AS YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT WHAT THEO'S TOLD YOU.

ADVICE? OH, I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THIS.

...WHEN RUMSPRINGA IS OVER,

SO KIND, THAT CHILD CHOSE YOU.

MR. CARTER, YOU'RE KIND.

CROSS-ROAD...?

CONSIDERED EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT "CROSSROAD".

FOR US, THAT IS

AND EXACTLY THAT'S WHY

THERE'S NO WAY YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THEO AWAY FROM HERE.

ORDINARILY, THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES, PEOPLE DECIDE WHAT TO KEEP AND WHAT TO GIVE UP ON.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE REGARDLESS OF THE CHOICES YOU MAKE ALONG THE WAY.

CHLOE...

YOU CAN'T DO THAT...

BUT

FOR US, THERE RESTRICTIONS. WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF "CHOICE".

IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE IS...

OH THEODORE, DON'T MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE.

GIRLS CAN'T...

SHOWING YOUR HAIR

IT'S ALRIGHT. I'M HAPPY. BECAUSE I REALLY LOVE HIM.

I ALSO.

HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S PRECIOUS TO ME, AND...

HEY, CHLOE

THAT PERSON IS—

THAT PERSON...

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO STRUGGLE.

DOING THE BEST YOU CAN,

THERE'S A CHOICE. TO LIVE AS YOU HAVE, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, AS AMISH,

OR CHOOSING... TO NOT.

THE LATTER... THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO CAST AWAY THEIR FAITH AND LIVE IN THIS EARTHLY WORLD

ARE FORCED TO BREAK TIES WITH THIS COMMUNITY, AND AREN'T ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMETOWN FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES

IT'S A PERMANENT EXILE.

AND THEN FINALLY, YOU HAVE TO DECIDE FROM YOUR HEART.

OUR LITTLE THEODORE...

AT THE END OF RUMSPRINGA,

THE FUTURE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD HERE- ALL GONE.

THEIR BELOVED FAMILY. THEIR WONDERFUL HOMETOWN.

"LET'S LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN, FROM HERE ON OUT, FOREVER"

THAT IS RUMSPRINGA, MR. CARTER.

KNOWING THAT, ARE YOU REALLY ABLE TO MAKE THE DECISION TO TAKE THEO WITH YOU?

PTOO!

—DISGUSTING!

...
PLEASE

DON'T TAKE ANY MORE OF MY FAMILY AWAY FROM ME.

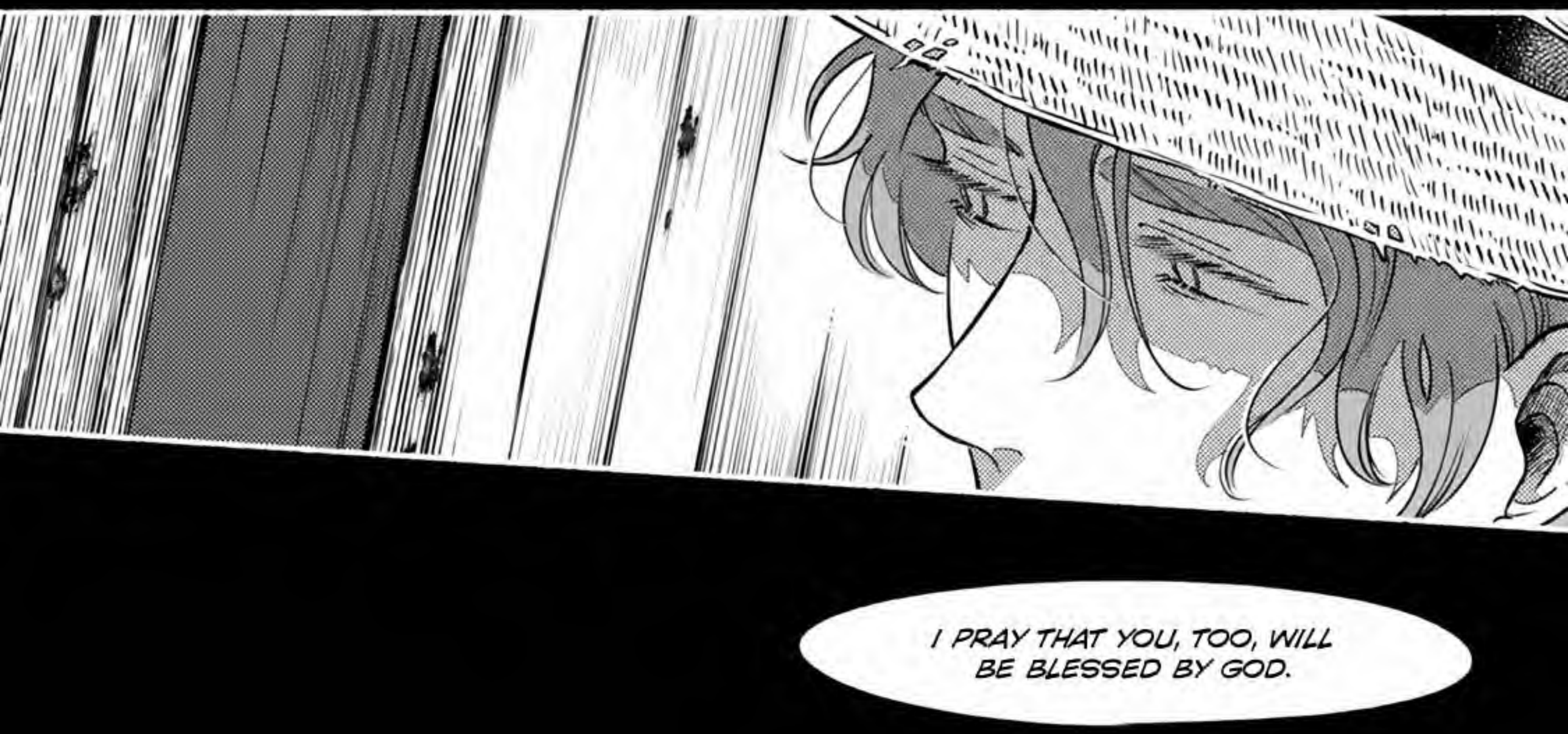
TOBACCO, HUH... WHAT DOES THEO THINK IS SO GREAT ABOUT THIS?

FOR MY WHOLE LIFE, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.

"JEAN IS DANNY'S BROTHER. HE'S NOT IN THE VILLAGE RIGHT NOW."



" AT THIS RATE, I'LL LIVE AND DIE IN THIS PLACE, AND STILL NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD, AND... I DON'T WANT THAT. "



CHAPTER 5

—THEO,

IT'S ALREADY BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME,

I'M PRETTY USED TO IT, THANKS TO ALL OF MY BROTHERS.

THANKS FOR HELPING OUT, THEO.

I DIDN'T KNOW PREPARATION FOR A WEDDING WOULD BE THIS DIFFICULT.

THE BIG DAY IS YOUR BAPTISM, THEO.

WHEN IT'S OVER, YOU, TOO, WILL BE AN "OFFICIAL" AMISH.

THE PROMISE FROM THAT TIME CAN FINALLY BE FULFILLED.

THAT PROMISE...

TOMORROW'S THE BIG DAY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, AFTER ALL.

WON'T YOU SMILE FOR ME LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO?

IT'S YOUR AND CHLOE'S WEDDING, OF COURSE I'LL PROPERLY CONGRATULATE...

NOT THAT.

...WHAT? I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP TONIGHT,

CHLOE'LL TELL ON YOU IF YOU DOZE OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CEREMONY.

JEAN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

YOU FINALLY CAME HOME! I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU~

I WENT FISHING WITH MY BROTHER AND HE CAUGHT LOTS SO I'M GOING TO EAT THEM WITH DANNY.

TODAY I DIDN'T CATCH ANYTHING, BUT I SAW A HUGE ONE!

TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL, EVERYONE'S GOING BACK TO THE RIVER TO...

SORRY, THEO.

...BE WELL.

OKAY, THEN THE DAY AFTER THAT!

I CAN'T GO TOMORROW.

THAT, EITHER.

I CAN'T, ANYMORE.

JUST NOW, JEAN,

HE WAS HEADED AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE, EVEN THROUGH IT'S GETTING DARK, AND

I DON'T KNOW.

ドタ

DANNY!

ドタドタ

SFX:TAP X3

...JEAN?

JEAN, OR WHATEVER.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

JEAN ALWAYS PLAYED WITH ME, EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUNG,

AND HE TAUGHT ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

...WILL WE REALLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHY!?

EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THAT IF HE LEFT, HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE US AGAIN.

JEAN WAS... SO HEARTLESS.

B-, BUT,

THERE ARE ONLY TWO OLDER BROTHER'S IN MY FAMILY.

HE MADE FATHER AND MOTHER SAD.

.....

...RUMSPRINGA...

TH... THAT'S TERRIBLE,

I'M SCARED...

THAT'S RIGHT, THEO. RUMSPRINGA IS SCARY.

AFTER RUMSPRINGA, AMISH CAN... CHOSE TO STOP.

DESPISED BY THEIR FAMILY, BY EVERYONE IN THE WHOLE VILLAGE, THEY ARE DRIVEN OUT.

THEY SAY GOODBYE FOREVER.

I JUST HAD A GOOD IDEA. WILL YOU MAKE ME A PROMISE?

...HEY, THEO,

DO YOU STILL THINK YOU WANT TO GO TO THE OUTSIDE, THEO?

I DON'T! IT'S SCARY!

...IN THE FUTURE, IF I GET MARRIED TO CHLOE AND WE BECOME RELATIVES...

IF WE ALL BECOME FAMILY,

THEN WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.

A PROMISE FROM THEN ON UNTIL FOREVER AND THAT NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE...

OKAY, DANNY. I PROMISE.

SO DON'T CRY, OKAY?

...THEO, YOU'RE... SO KIND.

SO VERY, VERY KIND.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LOVED JEAN THE MOST, DANNY.

IT MUST BE LONELY...

YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD KID...

THE TROUT THAT KNOWS THE OCEAN

CHANGES TO MATCH THE WIDENESS OF THE WORLD IT LIVES IN.

JEAN TAUGHT ME THAT. AND AFTER RUMSPRINGA, HE LEFT THE VILLAGE.

BELIEVING HE TOO, COULD BECOME A STEELHEAD.

THE SALMON IN THE TINY RIVER WILL NEVER KNOW.

WHAT BECAME OF HIM AFTER THAT,

YEAH. DIDN'T GET VERY MUCH FOR IT,

BUT IT'S FINE. I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.

THAT'S A BIT HARSH, AIN'T IT... HAVE YOU ALREADY SOLD YOUR PARENTS HOUSE?

TURNED OUT LIKE YOU SAID IT WOULD, HUH. IT'S BEEN EXACTLY ONE YEAR, HASN'T IT, NEIL.

カラ-ン

PREDICTING SCHEDULES IS PART OF MY JOB.

THAT DISTINGUISHED MOTHER OF MINE DEFLATED LIKE BUBBLE GUM BEFORE WE KNEW IT. THAT'S JUST HOW LIFE GOES

WHOO—!

MY NEXT JOB'S ALSO...

OH?

THEN ALL THE SUDDEN HE CAME BACK, BUT

THAT ASSHOLE OZ, SKIPPED WORK FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS OR SO. DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING FROM HIM.

!?

!!

I GOT THE FEELING THAT HE WAS SUDDENLY NO LONGER AROUND, BUT

THAT KID IS BACK?

I THOUGHT SO TOO!

LISTEN TO THIS!

THEO WAS- OH, YOU WERE THERE, WEREN'T YOU NEIL.

YOU REMEMBER? THAT TALL AMISH KID.

AFTER THAT FIRST TIME, HE STARTED WORKING HERE TOO, BUT... HE WAS FORCED TO GO BACK HOME.

JEEZ, HE'S OLD ENOUGH. SEPARATING HIM FROM HIS FRIENDS AND PRACTICALLY LOCKING HIM UP, WHAT THE HELL.

HE'S MORE OF A SPOILED BRAT THAN MY OWN CHILDREN, SKIPPING WORK LIKE THAT WITHOUT NOTICE, BUT HE JUST IGNORES ME WHEN I TELL HIM OFF.

UGH

OH, HERE'S YOUR SHARE.

YOU LIKE THIS, RIGHT

THAT'S MINE?

...YOU'RE AS SWEET AS EVER; AREN'T YOU, TED.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

WHAT'S THIS, EVEN THOUGH YOU TRIPPED YOU DIDN'T FALL OVER?

AHH!

HA HAHA

SFX:BANG

OI, WHO YOU CALLIN' UGLY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LONELY?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE UGLY, YOU HAVE YOUR BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND ALL THOSE NOISY BRATS.

...BEFORE LONG, THIS STORE IS GONNA BECOME LONELY AGAIN, HUH.

OKAY, OKAY.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

AGAIN?! TAKE IT OUTSIDE, OZWALD!

HAA

AS EXPECTED, BALLERINAS REALLY ARE IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE, HUH

OUR BAD, BUT WE COULDN'T JUST NOT PAY YOU BACK FOR LAST TIME AND LEAVE THIS ALL UNRESOLVED.

MAN...

I WAS THINKING YOU KINDA LOOKED FAMILIAR, BUT IT REALLY IS YOU GUYS AGAIN.

SFX:ZHA

TWO SKINNY BRATS LIKE YOU, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO AGAINST ME—

WOW, IT REALLY IS TRUE THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TEACH AN IDIOT SOME-THING, HE JUST WON'T GET IT.

WELL, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY, BUT

HMM...

HEY EDDY, HOLD HIM DOWN.

YOU LISTENING?

NNGH...

EDDY?!

GUR

GUR

UGH

IT'S NO USE, HE'S TOO HIGH.

WELL WHATEVER, LET'S DO THIS.

GUR

SFX:GRAB

GAH!

EDDY!

OZ...

HEY... I REALLY WANNA DO IT AGAIN...

WE HEARD YOU USE TO SELL YOUR BODY TO GAYS?

IT REALLY IS A SMALL TOWN, ISN'T IT.

AND BY PURE CHANCE, YOU CAME UP IN CONVERSATION AND WE ALL GOT TO HE REEEAL GOOD FRIENDS.

WE JUST HAPPENED TO BECOME ACQUAINTANCES

WH.. Y...

DO YOU TWO AND THIS BASTARD...

FINALLY, I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.

COUGH COUGH

WHAT DID YOU GIVE THIS GUY TO DRINK?!

WE'LL LET YOU HAVE SOME LATER.

BEFORE THAT, LET'S SEE YOU GET RAPED WHILE SOBER.

RAT-TLE

YOU WORRIED? IT WAS A BIT ROUGH, BUT WE GAVE HIM THE PURE, HIGH-END SHIT.

DON'T STRUGGLE, IT'S SUCH A PAIN.

SPREAD YOUR LEGS, HANDS ON THE WALL.

SFX:SPREAD...

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M INTO, I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO STICK DICKS IN MY ASS.

YOU BASTARDS REALLY ARE STUPID.

YAY

IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING A GAY FUCKSHOW!

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS HOW YOU PLAN TO GET EVEN OR WHAT, BUT

RAPING ME THIS LATE IN THE GAME DOESN'T REALLY

BLEH SO GROSS

HEY, HURRY UP AND GET YOUR CAMERA.

WHA?

-THEO

!! THIS GUY...

HEY, CUT IT OUT, ASSHOLE

DID YOU HEAR ME?!

WHAT THE!?

SFX:THUD X2

WHATEVER I DO AT THIS POINT WOULD BE FORGIVEN.

LOOK HERE

YOU'RE THAT AMISH GUY FROM BACK THEN!!

THIS MIGHT MAKE US LOOK LIKE ASSHOLES, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FORGIVE THIS KIND

UGH

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

KII

AH

UGH

WH... WHAT?

WHAT LANGUAGE ARE YOU EVEN SPEAKING, I DON'T-

UGG

KII

H, HEY...

WAI... I'M SORR...

THIS IS BAD...

LOOK, WE WON'T MESS WITH YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE, SO

KII

YOU'VE GOTTA

THEO.

KII

KII

THEO.

HA

HEY... CUT IT OUT.

HA

KII

IT'S FINE... THAT'S ENOUGH.

STOP.

THEO!

EEK!!

HEY! YEAH, I'M TALKING TO YOU, STUPID!

HOW LONG ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE FOR?!

HURRY UP AND GET HIM OUT OF HERE, RETARD!!

ビクッ

!

SFX:ZAA

TOMORROW... IT'S DANNY AND CHLOE'S WEDDING.

OZ, YOU KICKED HIM IN THE BACK, DIDN'T YOU.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BACK THEN... I WAS FINE BECAUSE I KNEW MY OWN LIMIT.

BUT YOU

YOU SAID IT WAS FINE TO HIT THEM BACK!

I SEE.

CONGRA-

WHY DID YOU STOP ME.

AFTER THAT WILL BE THE BAPTISM CEREMONY.

MINE.

...WHY WAS IT NO GOOD FOR ME TO RAISE MY HAND AGAINST THEM THIS TIME?

AFTER THAT, WHAT DID DANNY SAY TO YOU?

...WHY DID YOU ALL OF THE SUDDEN GO HOME...?

LIAR!

YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN ONE RECORD LEFT IN THIS ROOM.

THE BOSS WAS STARTING TO WORRY.

NO REASON, I JUST DECIDED IT WAS ABOUT TIME.

WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.

...YOU WERE PLANNING TO GO SOMEWHERE.

NO, LET'S GO TOGETHER, OZ.

ANYWHERE IS FINE. TAKE ME WITH YOU.

I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT YOUR HELP!

I CAN'T HELP YOU ANY

...THAT WOULD JUST BRING US BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

RIGHT NOW, YOU SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON YOUR OWN PROBLEMS.

I'LL HANDLE MY OWN PROBLEMS BY MYSELF.

I JUST WANT TO BE TOGETHER! I WON'T CAUSE YOU TROUBLE ANYMORE,

I'M SURE I CAN FIND A JOB BY MYSELF,

AND AFTER THAT

YOU.

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING !!!

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE DANNY SAD AGAIN,

AND CHLOE...

IF YOU TOOK EVEN A SECOND TO THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'D UNDERSTAND!

YOUR FAMILY... EVERYONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU...

YOU HAVE A PLACE TO GO HOME TO, YOU HAVE A FAMILY, YOU HAVE A DESTINED, HAPPY, FATED FUTURE.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED.

BECAUSE THEO, YOU'RE...

KINDER THAN ANYONE...

...YOU SHOULD BE... THE ONE WHO UNDERSTAND THE MOST...

JUST TO BE TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME?! WHAT KIND OF STUPID REASON IS THAT!!

WHY WOULD YOU THROW THAT AWAY?!

BACK THEN, WHEN THOSE PEOPLE WERE INSULTING ME, I-

Killing was not

...I'M SORRY, OZ.

I WASN'T THINKING LIKE THAT AT ALL.

...WHY WOULDN'T YOU TELL ME SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT ...!!

JUST LIKE I DID THIS TIME.

TRUTHFULLY, I ACTUALLY WANTED TO HIT THEM.

THAT FEELING IS BOTH THE MOST WONDERFUL AND MOST TERRIBLE THING I LEARNED THROUGH RUM-SPRINGA.

I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE LEFT BEHIND. JEAN TAUGHT ME THAT.

BUT DESPITE THAT, I WANT TO LIVE WITH THE PERSON I LOVE.

IT'S GREED, SELFISH, AND NOT AT ALL LIKE KINDNESS.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S A BAD THING.

"IT'S MY FAULT THAT THE THEO WHO WAS SO KIND, HAS CHANGED."

YOU'RE BLAMING YOURSELF.

OZ, LOOK AT ME.

AHH, LIKE I THOUGHT.

YOU'RE MAKING THAT KIND OF FACE.

EVEN THROUGH I'M NOTHING BUT GRATEFUL TO YOU,

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE THIS.

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T SAY IT. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE END OF RUMSPRINGA.

HAVE YOU COME TO HATE ME NOW THAT I'VE CHANGED?

THAT'S WHY I LEFT, IN ORDER TO CHANGE MY WORLD.

...THE WORLDS WE LIVE IN AREN'T THE SAME...

YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY'RE DIFFERENT.

I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS.

HOW ABOUT YOU, OZWALD.

...GO HOME, THEO.

ガラ.

OZ!

SFX: CLACK

TOMORROW'S THE WEDDING, RIGHT.

IT'S AL READY PAST MIDNIGHT...

I'M STUPID, AND THERE'S STILL A LOT OF THINGS I DON'T KNOW, BUT

THEN GET SOMEONE ELSE TO TEACH YOU.

BUT EVEN SO, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

OZ,

SAY IT.

NOT ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE OR WHAT THEY WANT,

BUT YOU. WHAT YOU REALLY, TRULY WISH FOR.

LOOK AT ME

AND SAY IT.

...OZ,

IN YOUR HOMETOWN, I SAW A FLOCK OF FALCONS.

AT THAT TIME, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME,

THE FALCON CHICKS ATTACH THEMSELVES TO THE FIRST THING THEY SEE WHEN THEY'RE BORN.

AS LONG AS IT MOVES AND TALKS, ANYTHING IS FINE.

EVEN IF IT'S A TOSSED OUT, BROKEN TOY.

"HONESTLY, I"

"DON'T LOVE YOU AT ALL."

THAT VILLAGE IS ON THE WAY, SO IT'S NO TROUBLE. HOP RIGHT IN.

HEY...

MISTER, HAVE YOU EVER HIT SOMEONE?

IT'S FINE, I HITCHHIKED ON THE WAY OUT HERE, TOO.

ALRIGHT THEN.

IS IT ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO BE HITCHHIKING?

YOU'RE AMISH, AREN'T YOU, SON?

WE SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE DAWN, BUT

YEAH.

THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU!

HAHAHAHA

WHY, YOU GET IN A FIGHT, KID?

BUT BACK IN MY YOUTH I WAS QUITE THE TROUBLEMAKER. I WAS ALWAYS COMING HOME WITH FRESH CUTS AND BRUISES

I DON'T LOOK IT,

BUT AFTER, I DIDN'T FEEL EVEN A LITTLE BIT GOOD ABOUT IT.

TODAY

I HIT SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

I THOUGHT IF I DID, I'D FEEL BETTER,

HEY OZ

I NEVER KNEW

I HURT THE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...

THAT YOU SUCH A TERRIBLE LIAR.

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, YOU'RE KINDER THAN ANYONE.

ABSOLUTELY

KINDER THAN ME.

WHAT'S THIS? WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

SFX: SHOCK

COULD JUST BE AN EMPLOYEE TAKING A VACATION... BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY SEEM TO BE THE CASE HERE, DOES IT.

THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, WITH THAT EXPRESSION AND THOSE BAGS

...OH-... UM...

NEIL BENNET, NICE TO MEET YOU.

YOU CAN ALWAYS EXERCISE IT OFF, SO PUT SOME FOOD IN YOUR STOMACH.

THE KID'LL HAVE THE HAM, EGGS, AND TOAST AND AN ORDER OF THE HAMBURGER AND FRIES. ALSO, TWO COFFEES.

YOU'RE OZ, RIGHT? I HEARD IT FROM TED.

AHH...

AHH... NEIL BENNET, NICE TO MEET YOU.

DINER

... 'S THAT SO...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT,

IF YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED ON A PLACE YET, HOW ABOUT RETURNING TO NEW YORK?

I'M NOT COMING BACK TO THIS TOWN ANYMORE, EITHER.

MGH

NOW THEN, WHERE WERE YOU HEADED?

...I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET... BUT...

UM,

THIS IS A LOT...

COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND TELL THE BOSS THAT I'VE QUIT AND GONE OFF SOMEWHERE?

SORRY, NO CAN DO.

RUSTLE

THE RE-AUDITION FOR THE NEW CAST.

THE APPLICATION SCREENING IS ALREADY OVER, BUT YOU COULD STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ROUND OF SCREENING.

JUST GIVE MY NAME TO RECEPTION. THAT IS, IF YOU HAVE TIME.

Audition Form

THAT GUY'S BEEN OVERLY CHATTY SINCE HE WAS A CHILD. HASN'T CHANGED A LICK.

YOUR FATE WAS SEALED BY TED.

RETURN TO... WHY DO YOU KNOW WHERE I'M FROM?

HMM... IT WAS STARTING IN TWO WEEKS, HUH.

AND YOU,

YOU'RE EXACTLY THE KIND OF DANCER I WANT FOR THIS STAGE.

Direction / Choreography : Neil Bennett

YOUR WAY OF DANCING, OVERFLOWING WITH A FEELING OF IMPATIENCE,

AND SOMEHOW FRANTIC, IS IN NO WAY SHODDY.

MR. BENNETT,

COULD IT BE, WERE YOU,

THAT'S RIGHT, I CAME TO SCOUT YOU.

YOU'RE NEIL BENNETT, THE PRODUCER...

TWICE, EVEN!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... IN THE SHOP, YOU WERE WATCHING ME DANCE.

...WHY DIDN'T I...

WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE?

THERE'S NO WAY REALITY COULD BE THAT FANTASTICAL. YOU'RE PRETTY DUMB, HUH.

YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

レミ!!

THERE ARE ABOUT AS MANY OTHER DANCERS AS THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY AND HOW MANY BLISTERS DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE ON THEIR FEET BY NOW, IN THE TIME YOU SPEND SLEEPING WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS.

THE AMERICAN DREAM ISN'T JUST DUMB LUCK. IT'S SOMETHING YOU EARN AFTER AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF HARD WORK.

PLUS, YOU HAVEN'T EVER BEEN PRACTISING LATELY, RIGHT? I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU. ALSO, I HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD YOU SING.

FIRST OFF, THERE'S ABOUT A 99% CHANCE THAT YOU'LL WON'T EVEN SUCCEED. AND YOU HONESTLY SAID THAT JUST NOW? YOU HAVE ZERO ABILITY TO EXCEL.

TOO BAD, IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE. I HAPPENED TO HEAR ABOUT YOU FROM AN ACQUAINTANCE OF AN OLD FRIEND, IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT, RANT RANT RANT...

I GET IT, YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED THERE...

BY THE WAY, YOU ENDED UP BEING FRIENDS, RIGHT? WITH THAT AMISH KID FROM BEFORE.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE JUST ACCEPTING ALL APPLICATIONS. I'M NOT *THAT* NICE. IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF LUCK AND SKILL, THAT'S FOR SURE.

IF YOU DON'T FIT YOU'LL BE REJECTED FOR SURE, SO BE PREPARED FOR THAT.

LOOK... ANYONE WOULD HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD YOU IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...

REALLY?

I

...I CAN'T JUST GO AROUND DOING SOMETHING LIKE MAKING CHOICES ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIVES.

THERE'S... NO WAY I COULD DO THAT.

I CAN'T JUST... IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

IT'S NOT

LURE HIM TO NEW YORK, DO SOME SIGHTSEEING AND WHILE YOU WERE THERE, AND AT THE SAME TIME YOU COULD TRY APPLYING FOR...

WELL THEN, I SHOULD GET GOING.

THE KIND OF GUY WHO TALKS ABOUT NOT MAKING CHOICES FOR OTHER PEOPLE SEEMS LIKE A GOOD GUY AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT IS REALLY JUST A COWARD.

.....

WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED THERE, BUT

I HAVE LOTS OF THINGS TO DO, ERRANDS TO RUN. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ORDER, FEEL FREE TO...

WHILE YOU'RE SITTING HERE CRYING ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS, THERE ARE CHILDREN FORCIBLY GOING AGAINST THEIR PARENT'S WILLS TO BE IN A BALLET CLASSROOM.

EVEN FROM A PASSING MEETING, IT'S OBVIOUS.

THERE COMES A TIME IN EVERYONE'S LIFE WHERE THEY SAY SOMETHING HUGELY SELFISH AT LEAST ONCE, RIGHT?

YOU'RE WRONG. IT WAS

BUT BEFORE THAT POINT, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CROSSROAD, YOUR OWN DECISION... AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'VE DECIDED ANYTHING.

THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS ME WHO

...WITHOUT IT BEING FOR ANYONE ELSE,

FOR MY FATHER, BUT..

BECAUSE I WAS ENAMORED WITH THE WORLD PEOPLE LIKE YOU CREATED...

THEN YOU ARE LUCKY.

BEFORE YOU GO... MR. BENNETT,

WHAT KIND OF SELFISH THING DID YOU...?

WE'RE FAMILY, SO I UNDERSTOOD THAT MUCH. ...I DID KNOW.

BUT I'M SURE THAT ISN'T HOW SHE FELT IT IN HER HEART.

SHE NEVER WAVERED AS SHE SENT OUT HER ONLY SON INTO THE WORLD.

ME? I LEFT MY MOTHER ALONE AND LEFT THIS CITY.

SHE WAS A GOOD MOTHER.

OZWALD,

YOUR HAIR LOOKS BETTER UP.

ぴぃ

BUT EVEN SO, I WANTED TO CREATE A STAGE.

OZ,

SEEING SOMEONE LIKE YOU WASTING AWAY IN THIS TOWN,

REMINDS ME OF WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND WHAT I WENT THROUGH.

THE REASON I LOOKED INTO YOU, THE REASON I CALLED YOU OUT...

AND WITH THAT, I'M GOING HOME.

NEW YORK IS A GOOD CITY.

"AFTER THAT WILL BE THE BAPTISM CEREMONY."

"TOMORROW... IT'S DANNY AND CHLOE'S WEDDING."

"HOW ABOUT YOU, OZWALD."

"MINE."

"I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS."

"WHAT YOU REALLY, TRULY WISH FOR."

"SAY IT."

"OZ,"

"LOOK AT ME,

AND SAY IT..."

THANKS, THEO... HUH?

CONGRATULATIONS, CHLOE.

CONGRATULATIONS.

BEAUTIFUL, CHLOE.

SUCH A NICE SERVICE.

GET DANNY TO GROW IN THAT BEARD.

EVERYONE, THANK YOU.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE! YOUR HAND, TOO...

YOUR EYE IS ALL RED.

HEHEHE, I TOOK A PRETTY SPECTACULAR FALL,

EVEN THOUGH I SAID I WOULDN'T CRY JUST FROM TAKING A TUMBLE ANYMORE.

I MADE DANNY WORRY AGAIN, TOO.

...IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT? ABOUT OZ, I MEAN.

YEAH, IT'S FINE.

DANNY LOVES ONLY YOU WITH ALL HIS HEART, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

...HEY, THEO...

DON'T EVEN COMPARE.

WHEN COMPARED TO THAT, MY OWN FEELINGS

EVER SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD,

YOU'VE BEEN OVERLY AWARE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, BUT

CHLOE,

.....

...I... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT WHEN I...

NO... THEO,

TODAY IS A DAY OF CELEBRATION, SO

YOU HAVE TO SMILE, CHLOE.

WHAT IS HE DOING TO THE BRIDE

DON'T MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT!!

NI

NOW THEN!

WITH THIS, THE FESTIVITIES ARE ABOUT OVER.

WE SHOULD START MOVING ON TO THEO'S BAPTISM.

DIP

THAT'S WHAT THE BRIDEGROOM WANTED, NO MATTER WHAT.

DO WE REALLY NEED TO HAVE IT AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WEDDING?

TSK!

IN CHOOSING THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR ETERNITY,

HE IS THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE...

EVERYONE, TO THE RIVER!

GOD,

I'M A CRUEL HUMAN BEING.

BY THE ATONEMENT YOU HAVE BOUGHT FOR US ON YOUR CROSS, WE ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS WE WALK

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, WE ASK FOR HIS BLESSING, AND FOR HIM TO HAVE MERCY ON US

WHAT WAS IT THAT

I USE TO THINK ABOUT EVERYDAY, LIVING HERE? I CAN'T REMEMBER NOW.

BUT I'M SURE THAT I WAS SIMPLY, HONESTLY HAPPY. I KNOW THAT HAPPINESS WAS REAL.

I'M UNABLE TO BE LIKE YOU ALL PRAYED FOR.

OZ, DANNY, CHLOE

EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE PRAYED FOR MY HAPPINESS.

IN THE END, I DIDN'T LISTEN TO ANYONE. I COULDN'T EVEN LISTEN TO MY OWN HEART.

OUR BROTHER, CLEANSED IN WATER IN ORDER TO BECOME ABLE TO RECEIVE NEW LIFE.

AMEN.

LIKE DANNY SAID, IF I NEVER WENT THROUGH RUMSPRINGA,

AND I FELL PREY TO THE "WONDERFUL CURSE" CHLOE TALKED ABOUT,

IF NOTHING HAD CHANGED, IF EVERYTHING STAYED EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS BACK THEN, THEN OF COURSE WE'D ALL CONTINUE TO LIVE HAPPILY.

WAIT,

BUT,

IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE SHOWED UP LATE.

WHAT, AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

BUT ISN'T THAT THE SOUND OF AN ENGINE?

A CAR?

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY ENGLISH GUESTS COMING.

IT MIGHT BE A MOTORCYCLE.

HAVE YOU BECOME SCARED? DON'T WORRY. WE ONLY HAVE TO SUBMERGE YOUR ENTIRE BODY IN THE WATER ONCE.

EVEN SO, I

? WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT'S NOT IT, IT'S JUST THAT I...

THEO...!!

HA

HA

HA

I'M GOING BACK TO NEW YORK.

I THINK THAT'S... WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO.

...YEAH.

...THEY MIGHT HAVE DECIDED TO REJECT ME ALREADY, BUT

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I APPLIED FOR AN AUDITION.

...THIS PLACE EITHER.

I WON'T BE RETURNING TO THAT TOWN.

...I HAVE SOMETHING SELFISH TO SAY.

THEODORE.

OKAY.

WON'T YOU...

WON'T YOU

COME LIVE WITH ME?

YEAH.

I LOVE YOU THEO. ...SO MUCH.

YEAH.

...I'M SORRY I... NEVER SAID IT.

EVEN THOUGH YOU... NO MATTER WHAT YOU WERE... ALWAYS LOOKING STRAIGHT AT ME.

YEAH... IT'S FINE, OZ. EVEN IF YOU NEVER SAY IT AGAIN,

THIS IS ENOUGH TO LAST ME A LIFETIME

PLEASE, DON'T REGRET CHOOSING ME...

I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD BE THIS HAPPY.

THANK YOU, OZ.

I'M SORRY, DANNY. THAT PROMISE...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, THEO.

IT WAS NEVER REALLY A PROMISE.

FROM THE BEGINNING... I KNEW THIS IS HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT.

I KNEW THAT, BUT

IT WAS JUST... MY OWN DESIRE THAT I FORCED ON YOU.

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS,

I WAS ACTING IN A WAY THAT WOULD SHACKLE YOU HERE... I'M SORRY...

DANNY, I'M

BUT PLEASE. JUST LISTEN TO MY FINAL REQUEST.

IT'S FINE IF YOU LIE.

IT'S FINE IF IT'S JUST A LIE, SO.

IF YOU CAN'T,

PLEASE.

TELL ME YOU DON'T RESENT ME...!

I'LL... FOR MY WHOLE LIFE, JUST LIKE BEFORE, I'LL...

SINCE THE BEGINNING, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN FAMILY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE

JUST HOW BIG YOU'D GOTTEN,

THEO.

I WANT YOU AND CHLOE TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER. FOREVER.

IT'S THE SAME NOW.

IT'LL BE LIKE THAT FOREVER.

I LOVE YOU, DANNY.

TAKE CARE...

...GOOD BYE.

BECOME SEPARATED.

TO FADE AWAY AND

HEARING A DEAR FRIEND'S WRENCHING SOBS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE HEARTFELT EXPRESSIONS OF BELOVED FAMILY MEMBERS' FACES.

THE WONDER-FUL PLACE OF MY BIRTH.

THE MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

THE FIELDS PLOWED EVERY DAY WITH THE HORSES HELP.

THE HOMES THAT WERE WARM AND LOVING,

THIS TURNED OUT A BIT LIKE "THE GRADUATE", HUH.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S AN OLD MOVIE

IT'S ALL DISAPPEARING.

D D D D D 7//

HEY OZ, WHEN WE GET TO NEW YORK, WHAT SHOULD WE DO FIRST?

HMM..

FOR NOW, WE'LL GO TO AUNT CONNIE'S PLACE.

YOUR AUNT? WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?

LIVELY. A GOOD LADY.

BUT SHE'S INCREDIBLY SCARY WHEN SHE'S MAD.

WHAT

THAT'S IT! I'LL JUST SLEEP IN THE BARN.

AHAHAHA

THAT WORKS, SLEEPING IN A NEW YORK BARN SOUNDS COMFORTABLE.

I KIND OF RAN AWAY FROM HOME, SO I FIGURED THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO GO BACK AND APOLOGIZE...

ONCE THAT'S OVER WITH, WE HAVE OUR SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS TO CONSIDER, HUH.

I REALLY AM BAD AT DEPENDING ON OTHERS, BUT IF YOU'RE AROUND, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

IN THE END, I'M STILL CAUSING YOU TROUBLE. SORRY, OZ.

IT'S FINE, THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF MY OWN SELFISHNESS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT-

...YOU'RE NOT CRYING,

HUH.

EVEN THOUGH JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, YOU WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY BURST INTO TEARS.

I GUESS YOU'LL KEEP CHANGING FROM HERE ON OUT, HUH, THEO.

—THESE ARE

THE SCENE OF MY RUMSPRINGA.

THIS WAS

THE FINAL MEMORIES OF MY YOUTH.

...I LOVE YOU, OZ.



End

AFTERWARD

THIS TIME IS "THE SCENE OF MY RUMSPRINGA". FOR READING, I WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

"DESPITE NOT REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THIS CULTURE OR HOW TO HANDLE THIS STORY, A MEETING OF FATE... FORBIDDEN LOVE... CONFLICT FOLLOWED BY SEPARATION... MARCHING INTO A WEDDING CEREMONY, RUNNING AWAY WITH A LOVER. THE YOUNG PAIR TAKES OFF ON A MOTORCYCLE AND DRIVES OFF IN THE SETTING SUN, FADING INTO THE DISTANCE. ~ THE END ~

A TALE LIKE THAT, THOUGH IT'S PRETTY STANDARD STORY AND KIND OF A COP-OUT. I REALLY WANT TO DRAW IT." I STARTED WITH THAT KIND OF SENTIMENT. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY.

TO K-SAN WHO WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF ME, WHO LET ME DRAW AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO UNTIL THE VERY END, I AM VERY GRATEFUL.

THOUGH IT WAS A HAPPY ENDING, THAT END CAUSED AND AIR OF SOME LEFTOVER SUFFERING.

EVEN SO, IF YOU ENJOYED IT, THAT WOULD MAKE ME VERY HAPPY.

APRIL 2018, AZUMA KAYA

【参考文献】

「アーミッシュ　もう一つのアメリカ」菅原 千代志

「The Gift to be Simple: Life in the Amish Country」Bill Coleman

[THIS LAST BIT IS HER CITING SOME SOURCES.]

THIS BOOK IS A WORK OF FICTION. THERE IS NO RELATION TO
ANY REAL PEOPLE, EVENTS, OR ORGANIZATIONS.

書　名　ラムスプリンガの情景

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発行所　株式会社　心交社
住　所　〒171-0014
東京都豊島区池袋2-41-6　第一シャンボールビル 7階
印刷書籍発行日　2018年4月10日
電子書籍発行日　2018年6月1日

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